Washington DC. April 22d 1854

My Dear Dr

I do not find in the roll of paper left for me at your house the list of plants you made out for reference in supplying names. if it should fall in your way I wish you would bring it with you when you come to the Meeting of Association.

I am busy now copying. and availing myself of your kind criticisms on my manuscript

There is no special news hereabout. The Gadsden treaty will either fail altogether, or be materially modified. The Commission is being reduced in number in prospect of a closing up of business. Maj Emory is well, but fidgety as ever. Should Bartletts book come out before you leave N.Y. we should be glad to have you bring a copy along. Bartlett is here in trouble about his accounts, and the Maj & he are exchanging paper shots. every little while

I have just come from taking tea with Mr & Mrs Schotty. I hope that Mrs Torrey will be able to accompany you here. May we look for you on next Wednesday evening?

Yours truly

C C Parry

Recd. Aug. 8th
Ansd. " 12th

Sandy Hill N.Y. Aug 4th 1853

My Dear Doctor:

I have to inform you of my return to my old home at Sandy Hill

I left Davenport. on 27th ult. and stopped a few days on my route to the meeting of the Scientific association at Cleveland

I here met several old acquaintances. but botanists were rather rare. being neither represented by yourself or Dr Gray.

I met with Mr Lapham of Milwaukee who wished to be remembered to you. On account of the thin attendance. especially of Geologists the meeting was less interesting than the previous one at Albany.

Just before leaving Davenport. I recd. a letter from Maj Emory. at Ringgold Barracks in answer to mine. he regrets my absence but thinks as the work is so near completion it will be best for me to commence at once on my report

I think he expects to return himself this fall. he speaks of the work being carried on promptly & harmoniously. Have you heard yet from Mr Schott?

The yellow fever appears to be raging with unwonted severity at N Orleans. I hope it will not show itself on the Rio Grande

I design to commence at once the thorough overhauling of my notes; and the shaping out of the Geological portion of my report. I learn from Prof Baird that Mr Conrad has nearly finished the examination of my fossils.

I was glad to hear that you were progressing with the botany. Have you yet seen Dr Gray. I should like much to visit them while the garden is in fine show. no doubt I could fancy myself in Texas or N Mexico—

I am uncertain what arrangements to make for the coming winter but hope after my long vacation to make it a profitable one for study.

I suppose you will soon expect the return of your family to the city from their rustication. Perhaps you intend joining them for a short time before breaking up. Can you not make Sandy-Hill on one of your journeyings there or back? We have now a very pleasant route to Boston by way of Vermont N Hampshire &c.

Please inform me of your plans in reference to the botany of the Bdy Survey and any other interesting botanical news

Most truly & respectfully
Yours
C C Parry

Sandy Hill August 15th. 1849

Dear Sir,

I duly received yours of the 4th. instant and have been seeking for an opportunity to send to New York for the books you mention for my son Charles. I have not however been able to procure them, and as it will be desireable to send them by the Falcon I have taken the liberty to inclose $10. and request you to get the books you mention; as you can do so much easier than I can, as I should have to go to New York on business, and would not now do so without great inconvenience. If you should wish to expend more money on Charles's account I shall be happy to send it to you; for I know not what the books he requires will come to. Charles expected I should receive a part of his salary, but I have received a letter from Washington stating that the company will be paid in California, and the draft by Mr C. L. Weller will not be paid.

I take this opportunity to express my gratitude and thanks for the kindness and friendship you have so long manifested towards my son; and I trust you will never have to regret what you have done to serve him. He always expresses the deepest sence of gratitude and obligation for your kindness to him. With best respects I remain Dear Sir

Yours most sincerely

Joseph Parry

Dr. John Torrey

Davenport Aug 20th 1855

My Dear Dr Torrey,

I wish to introduce to your acquaintance my brother in law Mr James Dalzell who goes to New York on business, any attention you can show will be reciprocated, or any commissions for me will be attended to.

Is it true that we are to be favored with another number of the North American Flora? supplement, or continuation? I wrote you a short time since

Very Respectfully Yours
C. C. Parry.

To Prof John Torrey M.D.
U.S Assay Office 30 Wall St

Sandy Hill N.Y. Dec 1st/53

My Dear Dr

I am in receipt of your note 30th ult. with enclosure The boxes sent you contain Geol^{l} specimens. I requested them sent to your care, that I might make a general gathering for Prof. Hall's Examination.

I told you in my last letter a week or so ago that he had agreed to examine them and assist in making out sections & Geol^{l} boundaries.

Conrad has made out a list of the Cretaceous fossils & described the new ones. Schott comes in for a share of the glory. having a n. sp. Nerinea Schottii.

I am making rapid progress with my report. am now trying to sketch out, the principal botanical districts

As I am in want of several things. I think I shall go down to N.Y. early next week and will then relieve you of the boxes. and talk more fully of other matters

I am as Ever

Respectfully & sincerely Yours

C. C. Parry.

Ansd Jany. 20/60

Davenport. Iowa
Dec 21st 1859

My Dear Dr Torrey.

I frequently have occasion to call you to mind in looking over matters connected with our former friendly relations but it does not so often as formerly reach the writing point.

I need not tell you that I am appreciating only as one in my circumstances can, the comforts of a home once more. and having some leisure in these dull wintery times I am improving them in a small way in such literary or scientific pursuits as come in my way. I feel greatly the want of books & congenial society, but the west you know. is better for raising corn & potatoes than. letters & science.

I have several times been on the point of writing to you in reference to the manufacture of Coal oils. Is there any good work that treats on this subject in sufficient detail to be a practical guide to carry on such operations.? What qualities of coal are suitable? and what would be the expense of an experimental establishment to test the practicability of its profitable manufacture? Can it be done in connexion with ordinary gas works? &c &c.

If there is such a work published ~~that~~ you can recommend I would like to procure it.

Do you know anything in reference to the "water gas" of Prof Sanders. which I see by the papers — is to be tested on a large scale at Philadelphia? He professes to make a very pure gas very cheap, using only a small amount of rosin. Now if he has to depend on this for his carbon, how is he to get much out of little. I fear it is only a stock jobbing humbug. But have seen no authoritative refutation of its claims. There are two brothers of Prof Saunders here Editors of a daily paper, who occasionally get quite jubilant on the subject of cheap gas, having a pecuniary interest in the matter.

I think we have to pay too high for our gas $4.50 per M. when coal can be furnished at $2,50 per ton. I wish I could see some full statements of prices of gas in different places compared with the price of coal at the same

CORRESPONDENCE HERBARIUM COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY

You will probably judge from the above that I am not at present much interested in Botany; - but the only reason is that I am shut off from intercourse with botanists & books I hear occasionally from our Trans Mississippi botanist Engelmann. who still keeps alive on the subject. Bigelow is quite silent. and Schott. is full of other things. I hope you will favor me with a line shortly that I may know what is going on. I fancy you have long before this given up your camp life. at St Marks and are enjoying the comforts of your family again. with much kind regards to all I am

very sincerely Yours

C. C. Parry

Washington D.C. Feby 3d 1857

My Dear Dr Torrey

Maj Emory has just shown me your letter to him in reference to the Botany of the Bdy Survey.

He wishes me to say in regard to the drawings in Paris, that are not engraved or in progress, that he wishes you to order their return forthwith & as soon as recd have them put in the hands of the N.Y. Engraver who is to have a written contract with Lt Michler for the engraving to be approved by Maj Emory. Also to notify the Major of their receipt & disposal.

In reference to the corrections of my report they will be all embodied in the final Draft. now in my hands

I have looked over most of Schotts collections, find many interesting things which I should like to know more about – We have found some interesting particular notices of some of the Lower Cal^{a}. plants by *Clavigero* written about a century since. I enclose translation of his notice in regard to the *Simmondsia Californica* (*Jojobe*)

Mr Schott & myself are desirous to have a genus named after the Mex. Com^{r} Mr Salazar. (*Salazaria*) a nice Gentleman & worthy officer no doubt you can find a good one among Schotts novelties say one of the Rutaceae or the singular Pomaceous shrub.

It is proposed to commence at once the printing of the

Geological part. & that ~~that~~ is at present occupying my chief attention. On my return I shall stay over a day or two in N. Y. to have a final consultation with you in reference to the botanical matters.

I am staying with Mr Schott at Georgetown. We are intending to call together on Miss Eliza some evening this week.

I will try & keep you duly informed of matters here — Mr Schott is anxious to hear from you

With much regard

Yours truly

C C Parry

Ansd

Sandy Hill N.Y. Feby 6th 1854

My Dear Dr

I received yours of 3d inst with enclosure. I send herewith account for the same. which Dr Antisell can sign, and send either to the Commissioner himself or to Maj Emory I have Maj Emorys written authority to employ Prof Antisell so there will be no doubt of its being paid. in sending it let him state address & where the money is to be sent —

I have been writing to Dr Gray to day asking if he would like to examine the plants collected from the Bad Lands on the Missouri. by Prof Halls Geol. party

I am writing out my California report for the last time I hope

I received in Albany the letter

forwarded by you

I have nothing from Washington

I am glad that Thurber has received his plants, and that you are to get hold of them.

I am well & comfortable as the weather will allow.

Emmia sends acknowledgements to the ladies of 96. St Marks Place N.Y.

Respectfully & truly yours,

C C Parry

Ansd. March 27/61

Davenport Feby 9th 1861

My Dear Dr Torrey.

I have been on the point of writing you several times of late but first one thing & then another has prevented up to the present time, I have about concluded to undertake that proposed trip to "Pikes Peak" in the Spring, have received very encouraging letters from Dr Gray, & Engelmann and feel quite satisfied that I can find ready sale for as many sets of plants as I can profitably collect, I have been picking up information from returned miners and others, which satisfies me that by the exercise of a little *gumption* I can work my way among the snowy ranges & high

valleys of that region by joining prospecting parties. or moving from one mining location, to another & so work up the botany pretty Effectually through the Summer months.
Engelmann thinks best to start as Early in May as practicable take stage direct for Denver city so as to loose no time on the plains and penetrate at once into the Mts I expect to go by way of St Louis. and stay over a day or two with Engelmann, to complete outfit & get posted on routes &c
I think I shall not attempt to do much in the mineralogical line except as it comes in my way. but confine my attention to Botany
One part of my proposed plan is to make an Engagement as correspondent for some public journal to help pay Expenses. I have applied through a friend to the N Y Times. and used your name as reference but

have received no answer as yet Engelmann thinks I could get a more profitable engagement with some St Louis paper, and will make some enquiries on the subject. If you can help me in this matter I should feel greatly obliged. as this is the only thing that now stands in the way of my final conclusion to go.

I also think of paying special attention to collecting seed for propagation. and would like to engage a market for some among your extensive Nursery-men.

Mrs P. & child will go East to her parents in Conn., and it will depend somewhat upon the amount of cash I can realize whether I follow her in the fall. Of course I do not expect to make money by the undertaking. but if I can save something over & above expenses it will not prove amiss these hard times please let me hear from you any suggestions you may have to offer, and if you do not conclude to go along. I hope I shall at least get a word of encouragement from you occasionally as in times past.

I suppose you are awaiting political changes with considerable anxiety these times. I hope to hear that you retain your position at No 30 Wall St & will continue to do so through a good many administrations. We of the N. West. are strong union men. & dont much like having the Miss blocked up. by a foreign country I suppose all Botanists are also Union men. more fond of annexation than disunion Please dont forget that Phiz my kind regards to your family.

Very truly Yours

C C Parry

TORREY CORRESPONDENCE HERB. COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY

Washington D.C. Feby 12th 1853

Dr Torrey

My Dear Sir:

Maj Emory wishes me to write that he is urging a decision of the matters connected with the Nat Hist. of Bdy Survey & will write you fully as soon as the arrangements are completed

I wrote you yesterday to say that I had received the ballance of my Collections, and am now occupied in arranging my Geological Specimens at the Smithsonian

I ought to speak guardedly about the probability of leaving for New York, as I wish to see things a little more settled before leaving the ground

Several Gentlemen of Bdy. Com. have arrived lately but I have no news of Mr Schott. & Dr Bigelow

Please give my respects to Mr Wright. and my hope to see him soon Either in Washington or New York

Respectfully Yours

C C Parry

Dr Torrey

New York

Eagle Pass Texas Jany 1st 1853

Dr Torrey

Dear Sir:

I write to inform you of the news just received - viz - that the Commissioner had reached Maj Emory's Camp on the lower Rio Grande, and it has been concluded to stop the work & disband the party. Maj Emory was to start immediatly for Washington (via, Brazos Santiago.) & before you get this, will probably be in Washington. He has sent Orders to Mr Schott & myself to "repair without delay to Washington & report to him in person with our notes & collections" an order which it will not be unpleasant to obey - Mr Schott is now absent on his Sta Rosa trip, and has not heard the news, I have written by a Mexican Courier, to urge his return. We shall probably be delayed in arranging matters here for perhaps 12 days, & then we shall make a resolute start for home once more, I think of taking the land Mail route, through Alabama, Georgia &c

I dont know how long we may be detained in Washington, but of course we shall stay to witness the inauguration, and then I hope we shall have the pleasure of making you a visit at New York - Please let us hear from you at Washington, where I trust we shall arrive by the middle of Feby prox

I sent you by the last mail. a selection of plants, put up in a small book, Maj Emory has with him the body of my Collections. which I hope will go safely, my seeds are scattered & will need over hauling.

I have only just learned the fact of Mr Wright's being connected with the Pacific Expedition, & am right glad that botany is to be so ably represented in those interesting regions, will not he be likely to get a small dig at California, & North Oregon?

Dr Bigelow is with Mr Schott. I suppose from the tenor of his orders, he will go home. I wish he could make you a visit, by the way as he is very anxious to get a look at the Great American botanists. I have found the Dr to be a very worthy fellow. and have formed a high regard for his zeal, & amicable feelings, Schott & himself are quite cronies

I suppose Thurber, is with the Commissioner at San Antonio and I shall get a chance to see him, I am a little curious to know what he means to do with his Collections. Maj E writes me that Mr Bartlett & himself had a disagreement in reference to our

natural history collections, the Bartlett
to Maj. E. full control of the scientific
our hands.

Please offer the compliments of the
two members of your family, and my
enjoy their pleasant society once m

Most Respectfully
C. C

TORREY CORRESPONDENCE
HERBARIUM
COLUMBIA COLLEGE N.Y.

stay to we

we shall

visit at

you at

by the me

I sent

of plants,

these with

I hope wi

will need

I

Mr Wright

Expedition

to be

the

was

as

G

Eagle Pass
Texas 23 Aug/53

Prof. John Torrey M.D.
No 67 Cross St.
New York City

Davenport Jany 14th 1862

My Dear Dr

I believe I am generally entitled to a New Years letter from you. at least I have a few enquiries to make which will be a good excuse for drawing you out

It has been suggested to me by Dr Gray and others to write out an obituary notice of Dr Edwin James. late of Burlington Iowa. I think I told you in my last the rumors of his death; since verified. he died on 27th Oct last the result of injuries from being thrown from a wagon & run over the day before, his age 64 years. —

What I want to get from you particularly is an account of what you know about him previous & subsequently to his connexion with Long's Exp.
What were his attainments as a botanist? Did he receive any special instruction from you? I think his botanical history terminates with that Expedition:
Do you know anything more about him

personally — i.e. his peculiarities, and appearance as a young man &c &c. I want to gather up all the information I can before writing out the notice. I have received several answers, most fully from his only surviving brother now living in Vermont

I suppose you have before this the set of plants selected for you by Dr Gray. perhaps you will have something to tell me about some of them. Is not that *Primula* a fine discovery? I can hardly realize that it has not been found before. it was so abundant & characteristic (as Fremont would say) through the entire alpine district. It seems you did not have your original specimen of *Chionophila*, and so we must wait to hear from Bentham how the two agree. I hope Dr G. supplied you with specimens of Pinus (the two 5 leaved species) One of which Dr Engelmann decides to be *P. flexilis*, the other undescribed called by him *P. aristata* I suppose this last must be the one so frequently brought back (leaf specimens only) by Fremont & others at high altitudes. It is quite exclusively alpine, and a very slow grower. an ordinary sized cane I brought home with me 1 inch diameter, has over

50 annual rings. I doubt not some antiquated specimens I saw would rival in age the Californian Giants

Do you get the Proceedings of Cal^a Acad. Nat Sciences. The last issue including 2 years contains numerous descriptions & figures of plants by Kellogg. I judge he is rather Raffinesquian in his views. Some of his new sp. I recognize as old acquaintances — He dips pretty extensively into the Onions a fruitful field for species making, and establishes a new Liliaceous genus on the strength of its roots!!!

I partly infer that Dr Andrews has got back there. I have written to Kellogg urging him to send specimens of his new species to Dr Gray or yourself for verification.

I have no definite arrangement of plans for next season, in these war times it is difficult to look far ahead. I am however in hopes to visit the Mts again and explore farther to the South & west of last seasons collections.

TORREY CORRESPONDENCE HERBARIUM COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY.

I see they are going to have a branch Mint established at Denver. Suppose you move out there from Wall St. and take me out for a door keeper

We are living out here in comparative peace and unparallelled plenty, abundance of Eatables much complaint among farmers at low prices for all they have to sell, and high prices for what they want to buy. wheat now worth 56 cts Corn 11 cts pork 2,25 pr cwt &c &c What do you think about our raising sugar from the newly introduced Cane. It seems to have a sufficiency of saccharine qualities, but hard to granulate.

It seems impossible to foresee the results of this war. but no doubt an Allwise Providence will bring good out of it. I know you to be of the nil desperandum class of Republicans full of faith that this magnificent fabric of Government & these rich Natural resources will not be left to go to waste, but will come out of the fires of persecution purified and separated from all pernicious alloys —

Please excuse this rambling badly written letter. I got a lecture from Prof Short lately on my obscure chirography. he thinks quite a number of N. A botanists ought to go to school again. You at least are clear on that score —

Respectfully & kindly yours

C. C. Parry

Recd. Feby 3rd
Ansd. Feby 9th

Davenport. Jany 30th 1860

My Dear Dr. Torrey

I am much obliged for your kind letter of 20th inst and will avail myself of your offer to procure a copy of Dr Antisells book – (enclosed find $2,00 for ~~that~~ purpose) I will also be obliged for a No of Gas journal containing prices of gas at different places, also if it comes in your way one or more copies of Grays Catalogue corresponding with Manual of Northern states I do not like to trouble you but your kindness long tried & often experienced is my excuse.

A letter lately received from Schott states that Maj Emory has made his appearance once more in Washington still sporting the red Cavalry moustache & venting complaints as usual. We have had Horace Greeley here to enlighten us on Western America.

Otherwise times are dull and general depression in financial matters, Sheriffs sales & foreclosure of Mortgages being the order of the day. We look for some improvement by Emigration in the Spring as the present low price of lands offers unusual inducements to actual settlers.

I should like very much
to pop in upon you at
St Marks as of old, and
enjoy in my quiet way the
sight of friendly faces, &
agreeable conversation; but
must dispense with such
a pleasure for the present
With kind regards to your family

I remain sincerely Yours
C C. Parry.

Recd. Aug. 13th (61)
ansd. Aug. 16

Cabin in the Rocky Mts
July 22d 1861

My Dear Dr

Many times since my arrival in the Mts have I had occasion to think of you, but almost constant occupation of mind & body and the irregularity of mail conveniences has prevented me from writing Now when I sit down to it. I hardly know where to begin so many things of interest crowd upon my thoughts. I am as you may have heard from other sources located at the head waters of South Clear Cr. at the foot of the Snowy range, a stream of melted snow water gushes and foams within a few steps of my cabin door, high majestic masses of Mountains patched with snow are in sight, and a few hours walk brings me into an alpine region diversified with the rich flora of this interesting section. I think I have never worked so hard or with such profit as I have for the last 6 weeks in exploring and collecting the vegetation of this splendid Mt. district. and its interesting features do not by any means diminish every day, or every new direction constantly adds to my accumulating stock; and should my health & strength hold out I am satisfied I shall gather a collection of plants that will surprise you. not perhaps so much from their novelty (though I feel quite confident there will be a fair show of these,) but from their completeness & extent. You expressed in your letter a regret that I could not visit [James' or Longs?] Pikes Peak; but a few hours walk from my cabin door brings me into an alpine region equally rich. I find all the plants noticed in N. A. Flora as found by Dr James, and being able to visit this region as I expect to about twice a week through the season I shall be able to embrace a complete catalogue and include specimens in all states of growth and put up with great care, I do all my botanizing on foot, "eat myself" as the Irishman says and am perfectly independent to come & go when and where I please. I have been twice over into Middle Park, which is but 3/4 day journey from here I have explored several Mt passes, and have the country surrounding within a dozen miles or more all by heart, I have selected two conspicuous peaks, to which I have given the name of "Torrey & Gray", I expect to visit them this week determine their location & approximate height, and so entitle me to the naming of them. It is my intention to make up a topographical sketch of this district, or portion of the dividing ridge, to be published on my return in connexion with my scientific observations, I came near joining a Surveying party for the location of a stage road to Salt Lake. but as they did not seem disposed to grant me necessary facilities and as I knew that I was occupying a most desirable field I declined going. I wrote to Dr Gray last week enclosing some slips of plants among others what I take to be Gen Chionophyllum as briefly described by Dr Engelmann. I enclose you also a specimen, which I hope may prove to be the identical chap, I noticed the plant some weeks since in bud, but found a very abundant locality in full flower on 16th inst What a fine group of Pedicularias we have here such as would fairly make Mr Bentham jump There are three alpine species of very delicate foliage and singular flowers. Castilleja is also very abundantly represented in alpine forms. I hope to get material for fully illustrating this difficult genus. There are two species of alpine Pinus of the 5 leaved section, one of these no doubt P flexilis of Dr James. the other I am in hopes may prove new. not having any description of P flexilis, I cannot yet determine which is it, both are rather dwarfish in habit, short rigid leaves. the cones in one with thickened scales, in the other quite thin, and armed with a persistent prickle, There are no deciduous leaved trees, except the poplar 2 or 3 species. willows are abundant & characteristic. I have found the Viburnum pauciflorum near here

TORREY CORRESPONDENCE HERBARIUM COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY

But it would be almost endless to go into a detail of the plants which I know would interest you and which I trust you will see in due time I enclose only a few slips such as I can lay my hands on readily. I must say one word before closing in reference to the mineral capacity of this region. Gold seems to be very widely & generally diffused. both in the drift. and in connexion with veins. composed of quartz. iron pyrites. Galena &c but it is very fine and difficult to get. The great problem is how to save the gold. The products of the quartz mills being very irregular. owing no doubt to defective means of attaching the gold to the quicksilver. A friend of mine Dr Hobbs. of the firm of Hobbs & Turner, is anxious to get an accurate analysis of his ores. I told him to send you samples; as you would doubtless have facilities for making the necessary examinations does the Gold exist mechanically connected with the pyrites or chemically combined.? a Dr Burdsall is just now making quite a noise by astonishing results from smelting the pyrites. I understand that he does not profess to extract the gold. but to make it which is probably true I have no time to add more having a chance to mail this for Denver direct this P.M. write to me my good long-time friend and Direct Care of A. H. Owens Missouri City Colorado Terr.

Very truly yours C. C. Parry

Recd. March 11.

Davenport Iowa March 4th 1856

My Dear Dr Torrey.

I have thought of you often since the receipt of your last letter with feelings of deepest sympathy in your irreparable loss. With many kind recollections of the departed one. I would fain join my humble tribute of sorrow with your afflicted family. I can well conceive what a shadow has fallen upon your own spirit in loosing from your side the partner of your joys & sorrows, & that you feel life's journey indeed to be a pilgrimage. Happy am I that you have all the sources of consolation which such a sore bereavement allows. & hopes that reach beyond the grave. I beg you will be assured on the part of yourself & family of my warmest sympathy.

We are living on as usual in our quiet western home; my only regret is the want of opportunities to follow up my favorite pursuits. I fear at times growing rusty, and loosing zeal by being engrossed in purely business matters. — but then I get warmed up at times. and feel a few sparks of the old fire still glowing in my veins

I would like to correspond more extensively with botanists at a distance & secure exchanges. but at present I need house room + leisure, to say nothing of family impediments not disagreeable indeed but obstacles nevertheless. in the scientific race course —— I heard last evening from Maj Emory. saying ~~that the~~ publication of the Report will probably be commenced in May. + then he would send for me to go on & see ~~that~~ my matters are properly arranged. He makes inquiries of some manuscript of mine left with you. I suppose it to be only detached parts left with you for criticism all which is properly included in my full report – All that I realy need is to fill up some blanks of botanical names, which you will be prepared to furnish me. I hope we shall not loose all our N. sp. in the long delay of publication.

I expect to go to St Louis, this Spring & shall see what Engelmann has done – I am quite curious to see if Schott has fallen upon any of my old acquaintances. I hear from him quite frequently. he has quite a notion of coming out to Iowa to live. & I hope it may be brought about. I think he might find profitable employment as draftsman in some of the numerous land offices.

I am obliged for your information in regard to coal analyses. I had come to about the same conclusion that your analysis indicates in regard to the worthlessness of our Cannel coal but was not prepared to hear so good an account of the superior quality of the other article as a gas producer. One great difficulty in regard to our gas coals here is the large amount of sulphur, which is abundantly disseminated through in many cases separable as occurring in sulphur bands & concretions. I would like to get an additional analysis of some coal in which I have a small interest & when I come on in May I will bring on samples. You forgot to send *your bill* I hope coal does not come under the catalogue of "labors of love"

With kind regards to your family

I remain very sincerely Yours

C C Parry.

Washington. March 25th/53

TORREY HERBARIUM
COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY

My Dear Dr.

Your account has been paid on mine & Maj. E.s representations I shall bring or send the Draft forthwith -

Wrights accounts are also in the way of settlement.

Dr Agnew's chance of a situation this Spring is good. Prof Baird has it in hand and of course will do all that is fair - no need of coming on here.

Shall return probably Saturday evening particulars then

Yours truly

C C Parry

Ansd-May 15

Davenport May 7th 1853

Dr Torrey

Dear Sir.

You will be surprised to hear from me at this late date still a sojourner in the N W. The explanation is this: while on my way down the Mississippi for New Orleans. an indisposition which had been threatening for some days. became so much aggravated. That I deemed it most prudent to retrace my steps and seek a restoration of my health among the kind attentions of my Western friends.

I am now quite sure that I should not have been prepared to undergo the exposure of our expected Campaign, in the South. without running a needless risk. and I cannot but regard my present indisposition as a kind Providential interferance. I have therefore written to Maj Emory. stating the reasons of my not joining him. and asking that a leave of absence be granted me. to cover the time that may Elapse till my return to duty again.

also requesting that in case he should not deem my presense on the line essentially important that I may be ordered home to New York to work at my report.— So the matter now stands and I design waiting his answer at this place. which will probably include an interval of a month or six weeks. this length of time I can very pleasantly occupy myself in cruising about my old haunts. and enjoying the hospitality of my kind western friends

Wonderful changes have passed over the face of this beautiful land during the past 4 yrs great improvements in town & country. a foreshadowing of unsurpassed prosperity under the smiles of an indulgent heaven. I do wish you could see our Western land once. for it is a sight that may well fill a Christian heart with hope. and desire. that a country so highly favored in natural resources. may not be wanting in those higher Christian gifts. that alone give a permanent basis to true social happiness & prosperity.

In case Maj Emory accedes to my request I am thinking that my departure for the East may be so timed as to go to the meeting of the Scientific association at Cleveland. I would like to know if you expect to be there? — I shall write to Mr Schott. to make geological observations & collections on the unfinished line. and I hope that he may have time to glean enough of botany to show the general features. of the vegetation in the maritime district:

I hope then to hear from you soon at this place and be informed of all botanical news, and the progress. of your work, &c —

I shall I am sure never cease to entertain the kindest remembrance of the friendly regard which has for so long a time been extended to me, from yourself, and the members of your highly esteemed family, to which I am sorry to confess that I have so small a claim.

Truly your friend

C C Parry.

DAVENPORT
MAY
7
IOWA.

Prof. John Torrey M.D.
No 96. St Marks Place
New York City

Sand-y-Hill. N.Y. Nov 19th 1853

Dr Torrey

My Dear Sir:

Since parting from you about a month ago, but little has occurred to furnish writing matter about. I have been quite closely occupied in writing up my report, and am making good head way.

Prof Hall of Albany has kindly agreed to make an examination of my Geol^{l} specimens, & assist in making out my sections, & maps, He has in his employ a competent Geol^{l} draftsman, an old acquaintance of mine, who will be glad to do the drawings under Prof Hall's supervision, I have therefore concluded with the approval of Maj Emory, to submit all my Geol^{l} matter to him.

I thought before this to have been ordered on to Washington, to meet the Commissioner, who I suppose has not yet made his appearance & wishing to loose no time I have desired Maj Emory to send my specimens from Washington, directed to your care at 67 Crosby St if you will be kind enough to receive, & store, them for a short time. It will be necessary for me to go shortly to Philadelphia to see Mr Conrad who has my fossils in charge, and from whom I have not been able to hear though I have written several times & requested Dr Le Conte to hunt him up

Maj Emory seems urgent to have the work progress with all possible despatch, in order to secure the necessary appropriations, for publishing, He fears that the Botany will be behind hand. Pray convince him that such will not be the case -

I received letter lately from Engelmann. He complains sadly of you, for "never writing" to him He now has leisure to devote to Cacti, and will have his plates drawn & lithographed in St Louis under his own supervision

Thurber has sent his Cacti to Engelmann, with the express stipulation that the information obtained shall not be used for Emory's report. The Dr is in quite a quandary, wishing of course to make his publication as complete as possible, and yet wishing to keep in with Thurber. I have suggested to him to make separate publication of Thurber's material in Silliman's Journal, & then quote it in Emory's report I am sorry to learn that the loss of Thurber's collection is confirmed, I can at least sympathize with him in that if nothing else

I think you proposed visiting Dr Gray on Thanksgiving. I hope you will

Do you hear or see anything of Schott. yet

My kind regards to your family

Respectfully & truly yours

C C Parry

Recd. Oct. 9/60 -
Ansd - Oct. 18th

Davenport Iowa
Oct 4th 1860

My Dear Dr Torrey.

It is a long time since I have heard from you, and I think you are a letter in my debt; but knowing your many engagements, official & domestic, I can readily excuse any apparent neglect. Allow me however to interrupt your silence once more by a few queries. It is just about one year since I dropped down upon you for a short visit and, I suppose you are still dividing your time between St Marks & Wall St. Your pleasant family I suppose by this time have joined you in your city quarters, please present them my cordial regards

I am living on as usual in my western home, being providentially supplied with a most exuberant harvest, we have abundance in store for the approaching winter & our surplus going Eastward is showing a very sensible effect in improving business matters. You will notice by Census returns that our population has increased during the last decade from less than 200 000, to near 700,000, and the country probably not one fifth part developed in its natural resources.

I am thinking seriously of making a trip next summer to the Rocky Mts. or "Pikes peak" partly with a view to increased vigor of body and also to pick up what I can in the Nat Histy line. I think by that time the country will be so far settled & explored that facilities can be got for a more thorough exploration of the Mountain district than heretofore.

I should prefer of course being associated with some Government party but in default of this I think I might venture in on my "own hook" and perhaps accomplish something. Do you think I could procure subscribers for about 10 sets of Rocky Mt plants say 500 species? If in addition to this I could get expenses paid by acting as Correspondent for some Journal I think I should feel like undertaking the voyage

Please give me your views on the subject. Should I conclude to go I should like also some instruction from you in regard to assaying of gold quartz or silver as I understand such enquiries are in considerable request out there and if I could at small outlay have with me the means of assaying I might turn it to some advantage

I think of writing to Dr Gray soon on the same subject.

I suppose botanical matters are somewhat at a stand still but I feel quite anxious to see Dr Newberry's Report which no doubt includes some nice things. The State Geological Survey of Cal^a^ is in progress under J D Whitney and I hope Botany will receive some attention. I was sorry to notice that the Survey of the Western B^dy^ of California started out lately so poorly equipped. That would be a fine field for exploration. Please furnish me with all late botanical news. I hope to hear from you soon.

Very sincerely
Yours
C. C. Parry

Please present my congratulations to Mr Gray on his improved condition

Davenport Oct 26th 1858

My Dear Dr Torrey

I cannot in justice to my own feelings refrain from a brief acknowledgment of your eminently kind letter & judicious Christian advise. — Nothing in the long period of our friendly intercourse has awakened warmer feelings of regard, or enlisted a more earnest desire to prove myself worthy of your friendship. — I know what you say to be true in every respect and that Christian growth is only to be attained by faithful nurture in a Christian soil. But a life of almost constant change has almost made change a part of my nature, and when local ties are providentially sundered I almost feel as if change of scene & occupation was a necessary remedy, — Still I have ever made it a rule, whatever my *wishes* may be, *to act* only in the path marked out by Providence knowing as I do both from observation & experience that this is the only path of safety, and when as in the present case my way seems to be hedged up. I can only wait (as I have often done in a March.) for day-light to open up my pathway.

My proposed visit to the East this fall & winter ~~though~~ unexpectedly delayed. will I think now be soon accomplished. — I want to brush up my botany, and perhaps qualify myself. under your instructions to take up some speciality — There is some prospect of my being connected with some literary institution in

a neighboring state as instructor
in the Nat. Sciences: and to qualify
myself properly will require some
training in fundamental principles
very different from the erratic
duties of a botanical gleaner.
I do not know how I should
succeed in the capacity of a lecturer
but I can try it: and if the
right fire is in me. I shall
manage after a while to get it
off — I am glad to hear
~~that~~ the Big Botany is in progress
hope my coming may be opportune
to assist you in the delivering and
congratulate you on the satisfactory
birth. — I should like very much
to meet Newberry. and get some
items in regard to the interesting
region passed over by him:
his admirable reports in the P.R.R.
surveys show him to be well

qualified to develop the interesting features of the countries he has had an opportunity to explore What is Schott making out from his Isthmian Explorations? I fear standing as he does in the gap between the War & Navy departments he will come out poorly, either in purse or glory, — Bigelow seems quieted down so that nothing short of a "new genus" would arouse him from the opiate influence of a routine of country practice. I have been trying to find out the whereabouts of Engelmann. I think it would be quite a treat to encounter his jolly Dutch face, after his long European visit — I am expecting to leave for East every week, shall undoubtedly reach N.Y. some time in Nov.

Very truly yours.
C. C. Parry.

Davenport Iowa Sept 15th/57

Dr Torrey
My Dear Sir,

I have sent you by Express a box of Coal, by the direction of the Henry Co. Coal Co for analysis The office here says that the charges will be $2,— which you can charge in your bill adding under the same head the express charges on a previous parcel $2,50.

They wish a full analysis for publication. especially with a view to its manufacturing capabilities. also its suitableness for Gas,

They do not wish to incur much expense. but want the examination to be complete

The sample wrapped in paper is from an opposition Co. & we want an analysis for comparison

I have a 10th interest in the Co. Prof Hall has seen our location & thinks favorably of it

We would like an approximate analysis as soon as you can send it. —

I was disappointed not to meet you at the Albany Meeting. Botany was well represented in Dr Gray & Engelmann —
Schott. will inform you of news in regard to our BJ matters
I expect to come on again this fall. to prepare my report for publication, & shall then have some time with you

Our Town & State continues to prosper we have now 12 000 population. our Miss R R Bridge is now in crossing order.

My little family are all well and we are looking for a pleasant winter

I have my buildings about completed. & partly occupied, and consequently quite a load off both mind & body.

I shall hope to hear from you soon.

Yours very Truly

C. C. Parry.

Some time when you are looking over manuscripts
can you select me a set of botanical autographs
American or foreign, will be much obliged

Ansd. Davenport. April 25th 1860

My Dear Dr Torrey,

I received some time since the copy of Antisell's work kindly forwarded by you; was glad that by a little delay you were able to send a later Edition.

Since hearing from you last, Spring has come upon us with unwonted briliancy. and I am glad of a chance at out door employments. I have a small garden spot facing the south and protected from intrusion whether human or hyperborean by stone walls, & high fences; here I cultivate a few choice fruits & Early vegetables, and so find employment and profit combined I have also fitted up a study & library room. with ample cases for botany. and a wide table, I have often thought how much I would like to grace it with that *long promised photograph of yours* - as a memento of our long cherished friendship, and an incentive to persevering study - Better still would be the *too great* pleasure of welcoming you as a guest to my quiet western retreat, and returning in some short measure the hospitality I have so often enjoyed in your pleasant family. I am about to try my hand in instructing a class in botany in one of our high schools, and though somewhat diffident in regard to *my* ability I feel that some practice of this kind may be of use to me hereafter. I feel the need more than ever of *books* & apparatus, but these are things that require time. We have a college organized here which I think may eventually amount to something. It is under Episcopalian management, but of the liberal stamp. & they are commencing right by making a permanent endowment first. and only going as far as their means will warrant.

I want to enquire of you whether at a moderate expense I cannot procure a good microscope. sufficient for ordinary working purposes. to show tissues. &c. ? not including the higher powers. but so that they can be supplied hereafter to the same instrument. Could I get such a one for about $30,00 ? I could at least get some experience in using such an instrument and be better prepared to appreciate a better.

I got into quite a squabble in the newspapers on the subject of water gas. the Editors of one of our daily papers is a brother of Sanders the water gas man, now figuring in Philadelphia, he answered my communications in a very vindictive & personal manner. but I succeeded in accomplishing my object in showing the matter up in its true merits. and when we get authentic information of its failure. will place him in rather a ridiculous attitude before the community where he has paraded the assertion that gas can be made & sold at a profit for 37½ cts per M ft.

I suppose you keep up your interest in the Western frontiers. What can you make out of the Washoe silver mines. on the East slope of the Sierra Nevada. one of your favorite botanical districts.?

Pikes Peak fever is again risen in our midst. quartz crushers being the great engine for acquiring wealth I want to see a little heavier return of the dust before I place much confidence in its reputed wealth. Yankees will find it out if it is there

Kind regards to your family

Most sincerely Yours C C Parry

TORREY CORRESPONDENCE HERBARIUM COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY.

Sandy Hill N.Y. Aug 30th 1854

My Dear Dr Torrey.

In packing up my "duds" in expectation of an early start for the west I came across some notes of Californian pines which you may wish to see in completing your description I therefore enclose.

I intend starting for Iowa on next Monday. going by way of New York & Phil^a^ staying a few days at each place. so that you may expect to see me accompanied with my better half. some day next week, to give you our final adieus, should be much pleased to meet with some of the female members of your family. We can then talk over botanical & other matters.

I received long letter from Wright written from Hong Kong. mostly filled up with complaints of the management of the Expedition. and want of opportunity to botanize on new islands.

Leaving other matters to be talked over when we meet

I am very respectfully Yours
C. C. Parry.

PS I have heard nothing of the movements of the Commission. Suppose they must have left by this time. Schott it seems was woefully disapointed in not receiving advance of pay with the others threatened to resign. I think he has been badly treated.

Davenport Iowa Aug 17th 1855

My Dear Dr Torrey.

It is so long since I have written or heard from you that I feel quite at a loss how to come at you again. your last letter was dated last April. Spring is now over & summer is on the wane and you will soon be thinking of your duties in the Medical College

We have had an unusually pleasant season here. with seasonable rains and not excessive hot weather Crops are fine beyond all former precedent. On my farm of 200 acres in cultivation we shall have some 2000. bushels wheat. 3000. bushels potatoes. Corn & other grain in proportion. So you need not fear starvation staring you in the face next winter.

I have been quite stationary this summer not travelling off a radius of 5 miles in any direction. This is equivalent to saying that I have dropped indigenous botany & gone into the exotics. I have taken a small interest in a Coal land speculation on a tract bordering Rock River in Ill.

Since sending you specimens of Iowa Coal I have been obliged to come to an adverse decision of their value both as to quality & quantity

Affairs in our town are progressing as usual. Some fine large buildings are in progress or finished. We have a RR now in process of completion running westward to the Missouri. Our Mississippi bridge also progressing, most of the piers being above water mark.

In our family the most important item of news is the arrival of a little stranger. a daughter some 3 weeks old

I have made the acquaintance of Mr Jesup of Dubuque. and like him

Our State Geological Survey is sleeping over, for a larger appropriation

I suppose at this time you are presiding over the American Scientific Association at Providence of which I hope to hear some account in the public papers.

How does the Bdy Survey botany progress. My last information from Washington states the expectation of Maj Emory's return in the Fall, when the work of publication will be commenced. quite probably I may have to come on for a few weeks to fill out my report. which is deficient as you know in the names of the new plants to be furnished by you

I have not heard very lately from Mr Schott. by this time he must have nearly completed the arduous part of his survey.

I have lost sight entirely of Dr Bigelow since he paid me a visit in April. though I have written him several times he will not deign me an answer

What is Dr Gray doing now?
Any news from Wright?

I suppose your family as usual are summering in the country. I hope they are well.

I rec'd from California the publication of the Academy of Nat Sciences. containing numerous descriptions of new plants. by Dr Kellogg Have you seen it? Its character as a scientific production seems rather questionable. but. some of the information is valuable. Hoping to hear from you soon

I remain most sincerely yours
C C Parry.

Ft Edward N.Y.

Aug. 28th 1857.

My Dear Dr Torrey.

I expect if nothing unforeseen prevents to go down the river to N.Y. next Monday even. and will call on you at the Assay Office Tuesday morning. It is uncertain whether Mrs Perry goes with me this time owing to the case of the child — I think of returning the last the week following (2d week Sept) — I would like to make some arrangements through you to secure copies of Botanical plates & text of the several reports in progress. I should feel strongly tempted to join the whole expedition for one season, if I had the offer of a good situation. I feel as if I could do so much more for science than I have done before, particularly with my experience of the desiderata now wanting, to complete our knowledge of these regions. Should you be consulted in this matter you might present my name to the officer in charge. Hoping to see you soon

I remain

yours very truly

C C Parry.

Ansd. Jany. 3rd

Waukesha Wisconsin
December 13th 1858,

Dr Torrey

My Dear Sir:

My last letter misled you in the expectation it held out of soon visiting New York. I had occasion soon after writing to change my plans, and feeling the need of some change of scene & occupation I have come out to this northern region to spend a few weeks, with my old friend (also well known to your family) Revd A B Bullions. I have also called on Lapham and expect to see him again before I return to Davenport.

This place (20 miles west of Milwaukee) is the seat of Carroll college, one of our struggling western institutions of learning contending with poverty, & inadequate support, seeking encouragement in the future, as compensation for past trials, & present privations. The location is a good one, and had they sufficient endowment to secure the means of instruction, they might go on very comfortably. Mr Bullions is Prof. of Languages, & Nat. Science is poorly provided for, being mostly supplied by irregular lectures. They want me to come on next Summer & give them a short course on Botany. I am to give a lecture before leaving on "the claims of Nat Science as a branch of Mental Education" & hope to stir them up a little on this subject.

I heard from Schott lately. He seems quietly working away at his Isthmian notes. & hoping to get under pay soon. I am sorry to hear that the Bdy Botany is to be cut short by the omission of grasses. I hope you will soon find some proper medium of making it public. Lapham seems to have made some calculations for working up North American Gramineae, and expected to get a job from the Patent office in ~~that~~ line.

What about Newberry's plants from the basin of the Colorado? Do they clear up any doubtful specimens of former expeditions? When are they to be published? What prospect of new Expeditions next season? What will you go at when the Bdy Botany is off your hands?

I expect to remain west
this winter & complete the
arranging & labelling of my
herbarium & next summer
I expect to be rather migratory
& may be at the East part
of the time.

I suppose your family
is settled down to winter quarters.
I should like very well to drop
in upon you and have a chat
with you in the 4th Story —

I do not expect to reach home
till after New Years, after which I
shall hope to hear from you

Very respectfully & truly Yours
C. C. Parry

Washington Feby 2d 1853

Dr Torrey

My Dear Sir;

I wrote you from New Orleans 26th ult informing you of my arrival en route for Washington - I also stated that I had sent you by Adams & Co's Express from New Orleans the parcel of plants I had with me It was directed to 67 Crosby St. and ought to have gone by the Steam Ship Empire which will be due in New York about 5th inst - I hope to hear soon of its safe arrival in good order

I reached this place this morning, after an expeditious but fatiguing land trip - have just called on Maj Emory handed him, your letter of 24th Dec. - My plants &c brought on by Maj Emory were put in Express at New Orleans & have not yet arrived - I shall stay till they arrive and see to the settlement of my accounts, when I shall apply for leave to visit N.Y. I hope to hear from you soon, and as soon as I get more leisure will write you more fully

Most Respectfully Yours

C C Parry

Prof. John Torrey M D
No 67. Crosby St
New York —

Washington DC. Feby 5th 1853

Dr Torrey

My Dear Sir:

I received your note of 2d inst. last evening, it seems good to be within such close speaking distance once more I am glad that you find something of interest in my last collections – and as I hear that the *Empire City* has come in from New Orleans I am in hopes that you have now got hold of the complete set. – The boxes put in Express by Maj Emory have not yet come to hand It includes the bulk of my collections duplicates, Seeds, &c about which I am necessarily somewhat anxious

Have heard nothing yet of Mr Schott. & Dr Bigelow. Dr B. was to return here and await orders Mr Schott. I shall expect confidently by next week. Mr Bartlett as you probably know is now here on his defence before the Senate Committee I have just had my first introduction & interview with him – He talks very fairly but I am

rather sceptical of his good intentions.
He says that Mr Thurber & myself ought to have some general understanding. as far as he is concerned he wishes each collector to make his own report the whole to be subsequently combined in one Vol. says that as far as he is concerned he will give every facility and in other respects does not wish to interfere He agreed in the necessity of your services as Colaborator.– reflected somewhat on Mr Wright in making a separate publication – and also spoke slightingly of Dr Bigelows work. Cautioned me against the absorbing qualities of the Top Engrs &c &c – On the whole I hardly know what to think. I do not see how he can be unfavorably disposed toward you. but if he should be dismissed I hardly think he would allow the collections to get in the hands of any one concerned in the general Commission work.– Could you without giving offence to Maj Emory write to Mr Bartlett and get his views direct.?

I do not think I mentioned to you that on my way at San Antonio I had an interview with Mr Thurber, and we discussed very amicably on various explorations – he promised to let me look over his collections the first favorable opportunity – no doubt he has many fine things – among other things he mentioned having flower & fr. specimens of the white branched leafless Leguminous tree from the Gila & Col. Desert. my specimens of which were lost and Maj Emory without fl. or fr. also other Leguminosae. of the Gila region His California Collection as he said was not extensive as he was absent most of the time in San Francisco. & when he returned to San Diego they had all vanished ——

Maj Emory is quite busy now in political manoeuvring and I see little of him. he comes up before the Senate Committee next week in Mr Bartletts case. You have probably seen the report of the Committee in which they decide that the offices of the Commission were become vacant, another complication in this vexatious business. which the Ch Clerk of Interior Dept. says will interfere with the settlement of accounts

I am now waiting to receive the parcels from New Orleans and get my accounts settled after which I expect to get permission to go on to N York with my collections &c when after having paid my home a short visit I shall be ready to go to work with you in earnest

I have just seen Dr Owens N W Geological report it includes my botanical appendix. The work is elegantly got up in quarto for a pub doc. but the botanical list is jumbled together so that it does not make a fair show. I notice a number of typographical errors but not so many as common. I applied at the Land office to get a copy but was refused as they said the edition was already exhausted, and a new issue required before distribution -

I think of nothing more to say at present it is possible that I may come on next week for I am already tired of Washington, and there is no chance of doing any work here on account of the "great noise & confusion"

Yours Very Respectfully

C C Parry

Ansd

Recd Feby 15th

Davenport Feby 7th 858

My Dear Dr Torrey

My long silence has a sad reason which I doubt not will exonerate me from the charge of neglect at your hands.

Since parting with you last Aug. my dear wife has been stricken down with a fatal disease & now lies at death's door expecting daily her dissolution. This disease (a granular form of Ovarian cancer) commenced soon after our return to the West — since which time she has been mostly confined to her bed, where amid much suffering and protracted weakness she has required a large share of my attention & necessarily of my thoughts

I would not dwell on this sad subject, had not a long experience of your kindness and interest in my personal affairs led me to expect your sincere sympathy, and having but lately experienced in your own case a similar bereavement, you will know how to feel with & for me in its near anticipation.

I am well aware that such trials are necessary, and must be regarded by every Christian as the merciful chastisements of our heavenly Father inflicted for our good. I know moreover that I have deserved this correction, for my worldliness and lack of Christian zeal — but still it is hard to feel reconciled to such an overthrow of earthly hopes. I have at least the great consolation of seeing exemplified in Miss Perry's case the sustaining power of the Christian faith in the hour of her extremity, — her composure is noticed by all who have been called to attend her sick bed, and can only be accounted for in her case, by a hope higher than this world can afford —

In present condition it is quite impossible that Mrs R. can survive many weeks. As regards the effect of this event on my future plans, I feel that I shall need change of scene, for a season at least to revive me from the depressing effects of sorrow & confinement. I think nothing would suit me better than to be connected for a short time with some expedition, to interesting & new regions, and I [illegible] this now so that if anything opens you will know my wish on this subject — It may be that something may turn up in connection with the Utah war operations

In answer to your queries in regard to the Salazaria. Its locality as I well remember is one of the Cañons of the Rio Grande below Presidio del Norte time of collection October; Its habit is that of a sub-decumbent suffruticose plant growing near the edges of dried stream beds having about an average height of 12–24 inches, rather straggling and leaning on adjoining shrubs. Its flower closely resembles the common Scutellaria galericulata. I am glad to hear the progress of botanical printing. I should like about 20 copies of Mex Bdy Botany. I hear of Schott only indirectly & nothing from Bigelow. I hope to hear from you again shortly with kind regards to your family. Very truly yours

C. C. Parry

TORREY CORRESPONDENCE HERBARIUM COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY

Washington DC. Feby 11th 1853

Dr Torrey

My Dear Sir:

I write to let you know that I have just received by Express the parcel of plants &c brought on by Maj Emory, to New Orleans in looking them over hastily I find them in good condition. I have now therefore (in case you have received my parcel sent from N orleans) all my collections safely in hand & in good condition I propose to leave here for future study & colation all my Geological data. Prof Baird having kindly furnished me facilities at the Smithsonian — and bring with me to New York all my botanical data to take up, and work out, as soon as it may suit your convenience — I have also as I before told you a large assortment of seeds, about the best distribution of which I desire your advice and assistance — they have been made as I before mentioned with a view to foreign as well as domestic distribution, and I hope may be the means of securing to us some interesting returns

Every thing in reference to the Commission is still in the greatest confusion. Mr Bartletts examination is still going on, He refuses to settle accounts waiting I suppose to pay first the bills of his own useless Mexican trips leaving those who have done the work to wait for another appropriation. I have applied to him personally several times without success. while at the same time I know of his paying other accounts less just than mine - this is the only thing that is now keeping me in Washington, I hope if you have any outstanding accounts of your own, you will send them on for settlement, for even if not paid they will be important in making an estimate for a deficiency bill.

I have as yet heard nothing of Schott or Dr Bigelow. though I have been anxiously scanning the arrivals from Texas. in the N.O. papers. I hope to hear of or see them shortly Prof Baird is much pleased with Schotts collections including a number of new toads & snakes.

Prof. B. is trying to get hold of Bartletts Zoological Collection. but with small prospect of success I think this is an index of what we may expect in the botany line –

I expect to get on to New York next week without fail and then we can discuss matters more at leisure. I hope to hear before leaving that you have received the parcel of plants from N. O.

Truly Yours

C. C. Parry.

will

Prof. John Torrey, M.D.
No 67, Cluly St
New York

Sandy Hill N.Y. Feby 25th 1853

Dr Torrey

My Dear Sir:

Not seeing you on the evening before leaving New York. I drop you this line informing you of my arrival once more at my old home.

I left in your office in the drawer containing my Geological Specimens the two sets of seeds intended for Europe. If you think they had better be sent immediatly will you be kind enough to see them properly packed & directed. Should you consider that there would be no harm in a delay of some 10 days. You can wait till my return.

Should there come letters for me to your care will you also be kind enough to forward them within the time specified.

I wish on my return to N.Y. in accordance with the wishes of Maj Emory to make some permanent arrangement for board, convenient to the College where I can assist you in working on our plants and be ready to obey any farther orders from Maj Emory. in reference to the Nat Histy work

I intend to write shortly to Maj E.— giving a statement of what will be necessary to carry out our plans and hope to get matters arranged shortly on a satisfactory basis

We have cold weather & fine sleighing in these boreal regions I was glad to find my friend well

With much respect

Yours truly

Chas C Parry

Davenport Iowa Jany 10th 1856

My Dear Dr Torrey,

It seems as if loosing my hold on Botany was equivalent to loosing your friendly acquaintance. It is many years since there has been such a gap in our correspondence as now.

I have been trying to hear from *somebody* some news of the movements of the Bd of Com and the prospects of seeing something in print of our doings heretofore. No doubt you have met Maj Emory before this & learned something of his plans; also Schott who ought to have a heavy budget of news & specimens. I only hear through a round about source that the office work is to be pushed through: and Maj Emory take his place in the Cavalry line U S A.

I have only lately heard of your resignation as Prof. in the Medical College. not without regret in view of pleasant recollections of your duties in the Chemical Chair.

I suppose as the duties of your office do not require "brains" we shall have the benefit of yours in a more scientific field. A "consummation devoutly to be wished"

Is the N.A. Flora coming out soon.? Pray dont give me the stereotype answer –

I often think of yourself & family and pay you imaginary visits being now the head of a family myself and engrossed in family cares I have to confine my visitations to imaginary ones.

I thought probable that Maj Emory would have required my presence in the revision of my report on preparation, for publication

I suppose you are all posted up in the plants & have your

Emorgia & Salazarias. all cut & dried.

At present I am occupied in business arrangements trying to put my property in shape to yield me a revenue. I have in prospect this season some building improvements which will require me to make a loan of several thousand dollars By making the improvements proposed I can realize 25 to 30 per cent on city property now unproductive. I am offering 10 per cent (legal interest) for the amount I wish to borrow secured by bond & mortgage upon the property improved. If you or any of your Capitalist friends would like an investment of this kind I think I could make the matter satisfactory to both parties, It is entirely out of the question to secure a loan out here without paying exhorbitant interest Capital being in such demand

Our City & State are making rapid advances in population enterprise & wealth. We have now R R running west of us bound for the Pacific of course. Our Miss. bridge ~~at~~ is near completion they expect to cross trains next Spring. So that when you come to see me you may make your first acquaintance with the "Father of Waters" by riding over it "on a rail".

Pray let me hear from you if convenient. I know something of what is going on in the botanical world.

With much kind remembrance to the various members of your family

I am very truly yours

C. C. Parry.

New Orleans Jany 25th 1853

Dr Torrey

Dear Sir

I have just arrived here on my way to Washington. shall leave to night by Southern Mail route. I have just sent by Adams Express addressed to you No 67 Crosby St the parcel of plants I brought with me from Eagle Pass. You ought to receive them soon after this letter comes to hand. before this reaches you I expect to be in Washington where I hope to receive a letter from you and shall write you. Schott is still behind but no doubt on his way. I have a letter from you addressed to Maj Emory post marked Dec 24 ult which I shall hand to him – The main bulk of my plants have gone on with Maj E. to Washington. it is uncertain how long I may be detained there before coming on to New York.

Please keep account of what is paid for the parcel sent to you

In haste Yours Truly

C C Parry

Ans'd

Parry

Davenport Iowa July 15th. 58

My Dear Dr Torrey

Since last writing you I have passed through the sad scenes of final separation from my loved companion, and am realizing daily the solitude of my situation — Still there are points of comfort not a few, and I feel it is the part of true wisdom to cherish them, and I trust I may find that Christian submission though painful is a wise & in the end even a kind discipline

I find the benefit of keeping mind & body active, & not giving way to brooding over past sorrows

Of late I have been hard at work in arranging my various botanical collections, which have for

for want of room, & time have been
lying in unopened bundles. I have
now a large loft at my disposal
reached by a movable ladder, so
that I need not fear disturbance
and here I spend several hours
every day. — I have also just
received copies of the Pacific RR
Reports, all of which is replete
with interest. Lately I made a
short trip into S. Eastern Wisconsin
called on our botanical cotemporary
"Milwaukee Lapham" unfortunately
not finding him at home, but
by consent of his good lady I
took a look at his collections
& cabinet. I was much pleased
with the part of Wisconsin I
visited being some 30 miles west
of Milwaukee. It is an unsurpassed
farming region — Climate being the
only objection — It is spotted all
over with small & large bodies of

water being the source of small
streams emptying into the Mississippi
A singular feature of this Division
is the vast amount of erratic
blocks scattered over the surface
of the country, not sufficient to
interfere with farming operations,
but as you may say pretty well
peppered — I returned home by
way of the Miss River crossing in
a nearly direct west line from
Milwaukee to Prairie du Chien.

I have heard quite lately from
Dr Bigelow, also Schott, & it
is about time to hear from
Newberry on his return from the
Colorado Survey. Do you know
anything in regard to the Texian
B'dy survey I see by the papers
the expedition is being organized?
The ground has been however very
well covered by Botanists, & would
hardly yield much of interest

The interesting region now is the deep isolated valleys of the Eastern slope of Sierra Nevada, and the upper Colorado basin. I should like above all things to take a paying trip to these regions. What progress is making with the 2d Vol Surveys report? I notice in Newberry's report that Dr Gray has complimented Hulse as the 1st discoverer of specimens on which the genus Hulsea was founded, whereas the original specimens as you no doubt are aware were from me.

I suppose your family are enjoying their country retreat this hot weather. I am rather calculating at present to spend [illegible] winter at the East, partly in N. Y. Please write soon

Respectfully & truly yours

C. C. Parry

ans'd
June 17.

Davenport Iowa June 8th 1853

My Dear Dr:

I received your note from New York some time since, having recovered my usual health. I have busied myself in running about the country, including a trip up the Mississippi as far as Galena.

I am now beginning to expect news from Maj Emory with orders either to join him or return to the East and work at my report. In case of the latter I shall proceed at once to Sandy Hill where are now all my notes &c. and commence work in earnest. I hope at the same time you will have something to show to encourage the Major.

I have lately received a letter forwarded from home from California

My old Scientific acquaintance Randall
He states that the results of his
property speculations have made him
worth a Million, the income from a
single source being $25,000. He still
pays attention to Nat Histy. including
Botany, says that he thinks he has
at present the best herbarium Extant
of Californian plants. Lobb the English
collector is still in that region. has
been to Oregon and expects to spend
the present season in Southern Cal^a^
near Los Angelles, & San Diego.– His
collections by this time must be very
extensive & I presume have been shipped
from time to time to England.

Dr Andrews. had just returned from
a trip to Australia connected with
some mercantile transaction. had collected
to a small extent. I tell Randall that
he must bear you in mind. & send
whatever he can, and make good use

of his wealth for the cause of Science I think it would be well if you could send him a copy of Pl. Fremont his address is - A Randall, Care of James King of Wm. San Francisco

I have lately heard of your old Comrade Dr Edwin James, who is now a wealthy farmer living near Burlington in this State. he has ad Son an only Child lately married.

I am collecting small fish & reptiles of this section for Prof Baird. the meeting of the Scientific association is delayed to the latter part of July so that I think it hardly probable that I can attend, as my vacation will close after I get my orders.

CORRESPONDENCE HERBARIUM COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY

I am glad to hear that you have your study so pleasantly arranged and till Dog-Days drive you into the Country. I suppose you will work hard When do you go to see Dr Gray?

I hope to hear from you before leaving here, and shall inform you duly of my movements. Were you not surprised to hear that Dr Bigelow had taken the field again under Lt Whipple?

I suppose you hear from Schott

Please present my kind regards to your family & believe me

very truly yours

C C Parry

Sandy Hill March 5th 1853

Dr. Torrey,

My Dear Sir:

I received your note of 28th ult- also the letter kindly forwarded at the same date the latter was from my old Comrade Dr Bigelow who in company with Mr Schott was on his homeward journey up the Ohio River. probably before this you have heard of the safe arrival of the latter at Washington.

About the printing matter reffered to in your note perhaps it would be as well to pay the bill with a protest against its injustice and send a statement of the same to Dr Owen who I think would not sanction any meanness. - I notice however that the name attached to the bill is not that of the publishers of the Original Report (i.e Lippincott & Grambo) and perhaps this may throw some light on the matter. at any rate I would not wish you to get the ill will of anyone on my account and I shall be well satisfied to pay the account and know better next time

I have lately written Maj Emory an official letter asking to be informed at his earliest convenience, of the Decision in reference to the Nat' Hist'l report. the means applicable thereto. and suggesting a more liberal policy in the use of the necessary funds. especially to those engaged in the duties of Colaborators.

I think we may rely having all these matters satisfactorily arranged as soon as the new party get well agoing - It will perhaps be well for us to go on shortly to Washington and have an understanding on the details of our plan and I shall suggest the same when I write next to Maj E. The appropriation of $70,000, if it has passed Congress will I think include the funds needful for our purpose.

I think I had better come down to New York by the middle of next week. (Wednesday or Thursday. so as to get fairly to work on the week following I feel quite freshened up by my country visit. and can afford to work pretty hard for a while

Please then retain in your hands any letters for me after this date and I shall expect to see you in a day or two after you get this

Respectfully & truly Yours

C C Parry

Ansd — sent letter to care of Dr Engelmann

Davenport March 30th 1861

My Dear Dr Torrey

I have been on the point of writing you several times. but many engagements have interfered. Having just recd yours of 28th I will answer at once. I expect to start for the west via St Louis about the middle of next month (April) and get the benefit of the full moon to light me over the plains so as to reach the Mts at least by 1st May. I shall be glad of a letter from you to Mr Clark, as I have before been recommended to them as prominent bankers in Denver. Please direct to Care of Dr Engelmann in St Louis where I shall be probably till 20th proxo I will perhaps write you again from there. when my plans are definitely arranged

I have not heard directly from Dr Gray for some time. but shall get well posted in regard to his views through Engelmann. the latter writes frequently and takes great interest in my proposed trip. has made a conditional arrangement for me to correspond for the St Louis Republican.

Mrs P. & child will go on East to her fathers in Conn and spend the summer

I shall probably do most of my botanical correspondance with Dr Engelmann. but when I get hold of any matters in which you take special interest will not fail to write you. I am glad to notice that a new P.O. arrangement permits the mailing of "cuttings" (i.e. bot specimens)? at book rates of postage of which I intend to avail myself quite freely I do not expect to do much in the mineralogical line unless I should stumble accidentaly on a "pile of rocks"

I am satisfied from numerous enquiries. that the facilities of examining that region will be better than ever before. and I think I shall be able to command wagon transportation most of the time. My plan will be to select some central point. from which to make minor excursions in different directions & explore high peaks. Shall probably work my way. some distance South & West of the main divide, much however will depend on the facilities offered and I expect to save considerable labor by acting on your suggestion & letting. well known. common plants slip by. except in noting their geographical range — I am glad to hear that you are not to be disturbed in your official seat at the Assay office which I hope will hold you during good *behavior* or till superannuated Hope with you that the political sky will become clearer. I have great confidence in Mr Seward's plan of adjustment. *time* & *conciliation* for a week past I have had m of my time & thoughts engrossed by the severe illness & final death of my friend and your old pupil Dr Fountain. His case is likely to excite great interest in the medical world in connexion with the poisonous effects of chlorate of Potash. You probably know that Dr F has been prominent in introducing this article into medical practice, under the view that it acts as a blood depurating agent in supplying oxygen through the circulation. I think Dr F. got his first ideas on this matter from your lectures, though carrying them out farther than you intended. Of late he had been much engaged in discussing the subject of its alleged poisonous qualities and took the ground that a pure article was almost entirely harmless. Before being taken sick he had experimented on himself taking frequent doses, as high as 1/2 oz not satisfied with this, he took *1 oz* and about 10 hours after was attacked with inflammation of the stomach, *complete* *suppression of urine*, terminating fatally in 7 days.

the post mortem which I attended
day revealed extensive disease
the whole abdominal viscera
kidneys engorged with blood. & at
several points crystals supposed to be
chlorate of potash imbedded in
the uriniferous tubes. The case
will be carefully reported on and
when published I will send you
the full account - It was in every
sense a most distressing occurrence
His wife an intelligent & accomplished
lady was absent at the East on
a visit to her friends. but was
telegraphed & returned in time to
receive his parting words. He was
very much esteemed in this community
as a physician and a man & bid
fair to attain eminence in the
profession; was an indefatigable
student. a fine writer and a
genial companion. His last

sickness developed. a most admirable Christian experience. while suffering acutely. & feeling conscious of the great mistake he had made in risking all that was valuable in this life on a theoretical experiment he still looked calmly on the approach of death. trusting entirely to the Saviour as the only ground of hope for the life to come. It was a privilege to wait on his sick bed & hear his repeated expressions of confidence in the great atonement his pointed exhortations to his impenitent friends & his earnest words of consolation addressed to his bereaved family. I have dwelt on this case. more than I intended. being uppermost in my thoughts, and as I knew you had some acquaintance with the Dr

LIBRARY CORRESPONDENCE
HERBARIUM

Very kindly Yours

C. C. Parry

---

fatally in 7 days -

Davenport Iowa
May 17th 1859

My Dear Dr Torrey.

I send you to day by express a copy of the Geology of Iowa it is quite nicely got up and I think will be of some interest to you especially as far as relates to Coal matters.

I hear that the Mex Bdy. Botany is issued at last, and beg leave to remind you of your promise to secure some Extra copies of plates. If you can inform me what the expense will be per set I will let you know what number I can take & remit you the amount - Schott says that the edition to be issued is quite limited & full copies will be difficult to get

As it is several months since I heard from you, I can only infer that you are still moving in the beaten track dividing your time between Wall St St Marks Place and soon your country retreat,. I am spending my Summer also in the country living on my farm and engaged in practical botanizing though of a very limited range I much prefer it to town life especially at this season of the year. How much I should enjoy a ramble with you over our fresh rolling praries and uplands now garnished with their Spring floral dress.

I do not expect now to go on East till towards fall. My brother John who called on you last winter is lying in a very critical condition his disease have assumed the form of an internal absess connected with the bladder, consequently there is no prospect of his recovery & I look daily to hear word of some unfavorable change in his symptoms.

The harvest prospects in this section & throughout the west generally are very favorable, this together with the war prospects in Europe is considered quite encouraging to the producing interests and looked forward to as the means of relieving present embarrassments and commencing a new Era of prosperity.

I shall be glad to hear from you at your convenience, and learn what is going on in the botanical line, as well as any personal news.

My regards to your family

Very truly your friend

C. C. Parry.

THE CALIFORNIA ALMOND.—We have been shown some beautiful specimens of California almonds discovered by that indefatigable naturalist, Dr. TRASK, growing wild in the mountains back of San Jose. They are at least half again as large as the imported nut, and are represented to be of delicious flavor. The tree upon which they grew was about 19 feet high, and loaded with fruit. The specimens exhibited to us, consisted of a fully ripe almond, and another just bursting its green hull, with a branch and leaves attached.

Sandy-Hill N Y Oct 11th 1853

Dr Torrey

My Dear Sir-:

I received your letter slip of 26th ult. enclosed in Old Texas envelope. Your surmises of its contents were true. I wonder you have no accompanying news of the Surveying party. I am quite anxious to hear, though in hopes the Major himself will soon make his appearance.

I expect to go down to New York. at the time when Dr Gray makes you his visit that then we may have all our botanical matters fairly talked over- I dont know whether I mentioned to you ~~that~~ Thurber had applied to Dr Gray to publish his plants. I would certainly like to see them in the Dr' hands who would not only do justice to the discover but prevent injustice being done to others. Do you know what conclusion he has come to about them?

I have to say a late letter from my California correspondent Randall. He mentions that Lobb the English collector is still there has been spending the season in the vicinity of Los Angelles. found in that region a new pine. also an Abies n. sp. He tells me the Mammoth Cedar we have heard so much about is an undescribed Species of Taxodium?; very nearly quite different from the one we know !!?

He has also specimens of the new Torreya — foliage, fruit, & wood sections. he supposed it a species of "Podocarpus." probably so called by Mr Lobb. He makes numerous enquiries for publications on Californian botany, wants your notes on the species of Juglans referred to in Transactions of Scientific Association Says his herbarium is quite large but unarranged as yet, he being immersed in business matters.

Dr Andrews is with him engaged in the business of raising swine. he promised to write soon

This is about the substance of his letter and some of the items will no doubt interest you We ought to get hold of some of those things and I think the best plan would be to send something nice in the way of publications. &c. requesting plants in return. I think he gets his plants mostly from Lobb. who probably does not let them out of his hands without seeing that his employers have the first chance. would it not be well to write to Sir Wm Hooker and see what is doing with Lobbs collections..

I suppose by this time you are settled [illegible] winter quarters with your family. I hope to drop in upon you soon. and till then with best wishes remain

Yours very truly
C. C. Parry.

Sandy Hill Octr. 23rd. 1852

Dr. Torrey.

Dear Sir

My son Charles wished me to send the inclosed books to you to forward to him in New Mexico.

Will you have the goodness to inform me if they arrive safe by the Express and oblige

Your humble servt

Joseph Parry

Dr. Torrey

New York

Davenport Iowa
October 28th 1868

HERBARIUM CORRESPONDENCE
HERBARIUM
COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY.

My Dear Dr Torrey

I am in receipt of your very kind note of 22d inst. I have received so many repeate[illegible] evidences of your kind regard during the past 20 years. that I could not misinterpret even a long silence. and knowing moreover the engrossing character of your engagements I was perfectly satisfied to wait on your friendly movements

Still holding the same views as previously expressed I can but thank you most cordially for your interest in securing for me (prospectively) a position. that on many accounts seems particularly desirable: and which I shall feel bound to accept. and endeavor to fill to the best of my ability. The delay you mention in the matter of appointment will also suit me in affording time to finish up my western business. only I should wish to have the matter made reasonably certain. I suppose the duties of the position will not interfere with summer excursions, which in my case on the score of health will be almost a necessity, and will be of course in the interest of botanical science. It will be so easy soon to penetrate to an interior mountain district that a great deal can be accomplished in the way of exploration in a short time. I have had in view to join the King Geological party next season, working East of Salt Lake in the high mountain region, and should be sorry to loose the opportunity -- also (*perhaps fancifully*) I would like to accompany a party through the great Cañon of the Colorado, which is likely to be undertaken next season.

But all this will be matter for subsequent consideration, after I go on, and see "how the land lies." It will be something of a trial to break up all my western associations social and business, and I shall retain some interests here that may eventually draw me back. I have always taken a deep interest in western educational movements. and lately have had some correspondence with a view to securing a position in some of our State Universities, but there are many objectionable features which time may perhaps partially remove, and an engagement such as now proposed would necessarily add to my qualifications, and standing — so that in every view of the case I cannot but view it in the most favorable light

TORREY CORRESPONDENCE HERBARIUM COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY

I have heard from Engelmann lately. soon to be in Rome.
We are all disappointed in the working up of Pinus in DC. Prod. P. Torreyana omitted entirely – the old style of classification on the no of leaves &c &c Engelmann threatens hard a new revision and will fight it out with Prof Parlatore on his own soil ——

Bolander writes that a friend of his had collected this spring a bushel of cones of P. Torreyana from my original locality –

Glad to hear the interesting family news. Mrs P. and myself remember with much pleasure our pleasant interviews at the College domicil.

I enclose a rather stiff vignette – but a good likeness. &c

Yours most sincerely

C. C. Parry

Have you a copy of my Canon report?

New York. April 12

(12 Ap 1849. –

Dear Sir

Arriving here I have called on Mr Blount. who accompanied me to the Crescent City where I have engaged a berth for $115; Mr Blount says there was only $100. left with him. and says that he thinks I shall meet Major Emory there who has written to him complaining that no provision had been made for the transportation of his company Mr Aspinwall has written to Washington on the subject, I think I will take a boat up the Hudson this evening and return by Saturday morning I will raise funds sufficient to carry me to Panama and there I suppose it will be safe to depend on the provision made by Major Emory I hope you will come to town next week monday — it is near there

In haste

Chas C. Parry

Tuesday 17th Crescent City. off Sandy Hook

(17 Ap 1849)

Dr Torrey

Dear Sir,

As I have an opportunity to send you a line by the return pilot boat, I improve it to let you know, that, all is right, I had wished to see you, and suppose you have either written or missed me in the crowd at our departure it will however not make much difference at the Falcon sails, on Thursday and any word or other matters you may wish to send, will find me at Panama.

I have taken with me 2 reams of blotting paper, and in case I should need more I presume you can send it, With what you sent on before, I shall at least have enough for the first season, and if I continue in that region, another season, I could receive it by the way of Cape Horn, I have made my baggage as light as possible, and hope to meet with no difficulty in crossing the Isthmus.

There was some letters I was to procure from you of introduction &c. these you will remember to send, Did you hear from Maj Emory, by the Falcon?

You could probably send any small articles by hand—

I did not return from up the river till

Saturday evening; called on Dr Emmons at Albany, who gave me some directions in reference to my geological observations

I find several acquaintances on board will write you as soon as I ~~reached~~ get to Panama

very respectfully,

Chas C. Parry

NEW-YORK
18
APR
5 cts.

Prof. John Torrey
Princeton
New Jersey

(19 Ap 1851? -)

On board [illegible] — Apl 19th 5 P.M.

Dr Torrey

I have just taken my baggage from your rooms, where I did not have time to see you — my letter from Washington contains appointment as Botanist & Geologist with orders to report to Maj Emory. I do this by letter, perhaps you have more definite information about the Majr's plans, and at least it will be necessary for me to return immediately to N.Y. and you may therefore look for me on Thursday next.

At present I am tied down by the charge of a lady & a baby and must therefore obey every single order.

In haste yours

C. C. Parry

Gorgona. April 28th 1849

Dr Torrey

Dear Sir

I am sitting at a table by the side of Col. Hughs of the railroad survey. whose name I remembered to hear you mention, and I have accordingly hunted him up. — I concluded to drop you a line by the return of the Crescent City to inform you that I had arrived safely at this point within a day's ride of Panama.

TORREY CORRESPONDENCE HERBARIUM COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY.

Col Hughs informs me that. Maj Emory is still detained at Panama. and has made arrangements to transport the Company on the Steamer Panama when she arrives. Capt Baily who is to command her was a passenger in the Crescent City

We made the voyage without any particular incidents in a little less than 9 days. the difficulties of the trip up the Chagres river have been much exaggerated. it is a very pretty excursion, and you may be sure I enjoyed my first view of tropical vegetation, which is almost bewildering to a northern botanist

Dr Halsted is now at Panama and I shall meet him there. I learn he has made a fine collection of plants & specimens of wood.

If I have any thing special to write. from Panama I will do so by the Falcon. if you receive nothing you may suppose that every thing is going on well

I do not think of any thing to add. as I know not what you may have written me. the means of transportation across the Isthmus. are improving as some Yankees have got hold of it and the Pacific seems to be the sticking point for the Gold. seekers. — I hope we shall not be detained long at Panama. for I am anxious to get into the field. to work, The rainy season is not yet set in. we have had almost uninterrupted fine weather

With much respect I am

Yours truly
Chas C. Parry

} Per Crescent City

YORK
SHIP
MAY 12
7

Prof. John Torrey M D
Princeton
New Jersey

17 Au 1847

CORRESPONDENCE HERBARIUM COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY

Camp. Falls St Croix. Minesota. Aug 18th

Dr Torrey.

Dear Sir.

Having a little leisure on my hands, & presuming you would like to know something of my movements in the botanical line, I thought to give you a slight sketch. Since writing you last I have been pretty actively engaged in making collections at various points. having been necessarily attached to geological parties, I have not had all the opportunity I could desire to vary my route to the best advantage, but still, as any list, will show my observations have not been devoid of interest. In the first part of the season, including the month of June, & part of July, I accompanied a party up the St Peters, & Mankato, on which route I was able to collect many of the plants characteristic of the "Coteau des prairies," As the following: Castileja sessiliflora. Psoralea esculenta (with specimens of the root) Senecio integerrimus, Amorpha nana, Zigadenus glaucus, Orobanche fasciculata, Talinum teretifolium, Plantago gnaphaloides, Lygodesmia juncea Opuntia ferox. Oxytropis Lambertii. Onspaphlus (hirsutus)? Artemisias, (several species) Potentilla pensylvanica Sagitaria (n sp)? ~~Hypoxis~~ Lophanthus anisatus, Cyperus. alterniflora, Orobanche ludoviciana (In a singular isolalated location on an Indian grave) —— Nasturtium (sinuatum)? Astragalus caryocarpus. fl & fr.) (Of all these I believe I have abundant duplicates.

I have been more particularly interested however in this least unexplored part of the country, which would well repay an entire seasons operations. Early in the season, I found on the banks of the Miss. below Lake

Pepin

Valeriana ciliata — Viola delphinifolia,, Penstemon grandiflo
Synthris Houghtonii, Geum triflorum, Elegant specimens in flower & fruit, Anemone patens. (abundant north of Galena) —

On the St Croix mostly near Stillwater.
Mimulus Jamesii, (your Geyeri) Alnus glutinosa, Vaccinium caespitosum, fr, Glycirrhiza lepidota. — later in the season, Oenothera albicaulis, also a small pinnate leaved Potentilla, perhaps paradoxa. —

In this vicinity where I have been over a week exploring the interesting Trap rocks, I have found many of the plants common to northern N.Y. — I find near our camp, three species of Lophanthus, anisatus, nepetoides & scrophulariaefolius, of which I have improved the opportunity of making a living comparison: it would seem that Dr Gray has somewhat confounded the two latter in his descriptions, as the first paragraph, in each seems to be misplac
— The L anisatus, is a very handsome species, with a very agreeable taste & odour: — I also found here the enclosed fern, which I think must be, a new species of Polystichum, not answering to the description of aculeatum, as you have the means of comparison you can determine the point, if new, it ought to bear the name of fragrans as it was this that first led me to its detection. I have written out a full description but as I have the opportunity to send you the plant itself will not trouble you with it, I found it in only one isolated position in the Trap rocks. of course I have preserved all the specimens possible (I wish the name of this genus could have been Pelto.sorus)

from this necessarily hasty sketch you will be able to form some notion of my labours.

I expect soon to continue on to Lake Superior &c which though late in the season will I hope afford some interesting aditions —

It is probable I shall return to Davenport by the way of Lake Michigan & Milwalky, where I expect to see you correspondent, Mr Lapham. It is also my intention on returning to the East in the latter part of the season, to make a circuitous rout, for the purpose of forming acquaintance with botanists in the different western states, & collecting information

It is partly my object in visiting the East this winter, to endeavour to make arrangements for continuing my botanical observations & collections in this region, or any other, as I have come to the determination to devote my entire attention to the subject. I would like to be able to do so with satisfaction to myself, and advancement of the cause of botanical science If you can aid me therein by any advise or recommendation I should be sincerely obliged — I have thought that, by a combination of different societies and individuals, the burden of my employment as a collector would be comparatively slight — —

I should be glad if you could meet me, by a letter, at *Davenport*, about the middle of Oct, containing any requests you may have to make of specimens in my collection; I expect to have the privilege of the distribution of duplicate specimens, of which at any rate I shall secure the larger number by exchange, for specimens of my private collection the last season; in my report I expect to embody the observations of the two seasons together

Please sir excuse the haste & errors, in the above which your kindness will attribute to the inconveniences of a *Camp* life & believe me, very respectfully

Your Friend

Prof. John Torrey MD

Chas. C. Parry

Prof. John Torrey M.D.

Sandy-Hill. Aug 28th 1851

My Dear Doctor;

Your sudden departure from Albany. prevented me from ascertaining your wishes in reference to my coming down and assisting you in the final completion of the list of plants.

Maj Emory appears to be quite urgent in reference to the completion of the work. and hopes I shall be able to come on to Washington. early in Sept. I should much prefer however to put it off till. Oct. by which time I should hope to have all the materials, on hand for finishing up the job, as far as I am concerned.

I wish however mainly to consult your own convenience. and knowing the anxieties you must soon be occupied with in the prospect of removing, and also of assuming your duties at the College. I think it would be your desire to bring these matters to a speedy close.

I have thought of proposing to come down by the middle of Sept. next. should the time suit you Perhaps by that time Dr Gray will be able to expedite the matter by taking some of the labor off your hands.

I have written to Maj Emory on this subject also in reference to Dr Le Conte. with regard to the latter I hope satisfactory arrangements will be made, though the shortness of time allowed will be an obstacle unless the Major can be prevailed to hang on for the coming winter —

Please let me know your wishes in reference to the above subject and believe me to be

most sincerely Yours

Chas. C. Parry.

Eagle Pass Texas Dec 24th 1852

My Dear Dr

I have just mailed for you a Christmas present in a parcel of plants, including samples of my last trips gatherings, the medium is rather contracted, but I hope that Plato & they will not "fall out by the way", and some of them I think will not be uninteresting; My larger specimens must wait some other conveyance. — I wanted to send you with these a fine Sp Erigonum from Mt Carmel but it was obstinate & would not go in

I received since my last, your kind note of Nov 8th. The botanical trio. Dr B, Schott, & myself, being equally favored, we are having quite a social time together, and pull plants to pieces, with a vengeance. This is perhaps the main reason why I am holding on in this desert part of the world, for I have been several times on the point of starting, and am now as far from it as ever, at present I am in charge of the army hospital, while the regular Surgeon, is absent on a month's furlough.

We heard quite lately from Maj Emory, who is still at Ringgold barracks, below, but no news — The Commissioner has not yet been heard of, and of course no news yet from Congress. We are expecting to see the Presidents Message this next mail.

I received from Dr Englemann some loose sheets from Sillimans Journal for Nov last, containing some notes on my Californian Cacti - the Dr seems wonderfully zealous in this branch, and it is quite a satisfaction to assist him by any information in our power.

I was glad to hear of Dr Woodhouse safe arrival, with botanical collections, I have taken much interest in his contemplated route, and have made frequent inquiries in reference to the expedition, but had not heard before of its final accomplishment. I did not meet Mr Fitch in California, only heard of him. Have you ever got any thing from my old comrade out there Dr Andrews? Would not it be a nice thing if Wright could go out & explore Northern California which must be now tolerably accessible by the enterprize of mines, & merchants, I have no doubt he might add to his well earned laurels from that region—

We are having pleasant weather, dry, & not cold, but no plants yet, though Dr B has been trying to hurry them out, by taking long pedestrian excursions in the vicinity, he generally brings home only antique specimens, and queer roots. He & Mr Schott start next week for Sta Rosa, a spot which I passed through hastily on my return trip to this place. It is a most lovely valley, and would well repay an exploration in the flowering season. It also contains silver mines. This must be a very uninteresting section directly about here, consisting of nothing but wide shrubby plains, & open valleys, I do not wonder that Mr Schott was disgusted with it.

I want to persuade Maj Emory to let Mr Schott go for a short time to St Louis, and assist Dr Engelmann, in sketching Cacti, being countrymen they would no doubt hitch well together, and it would no doubt be a mutual advantage.

I now think that it is about as well for me to get through the winter here at the south, and work my way to New York next Spring, most probably paying my western home a visit on the way. This will prevent the pleasure of my long anticipated winter's study with you, but I have learned to be at least patient under such privations.—

What will be done with the Nat History materials collected on our Survey must I suppose be shortly determined. I have no doubt if Maj Emory continues in charge that the working up, will be done in a liberal style. and the final publication put in the hands of the Smithsonian —

I think that Mr Schott writes you by this mail and will tell best his own story. please give my respects to Mr Wright if still with you, and remember me kindly to the members of your family—

Most Sincerely Yours

C C Parry

Recd March 18th 1850

San-Diego Jan 26th 1850

Dr Torrey

Dear Sir

Various circumstances have prevented me from addressing you since my return from the Colorado among others a severe attack of dysentery which confined me to my bed for two weeks, during which time I recieved your note of Oct 12th I am now however entirely recovered We left the mouth of Gila on the 1st Dec. and by a rather hurried march. reached San Diego on 11th do. I was glad of an opportunity of following a new rout, which leaving the old road at Carrisso Creek, crosses the mountains in a more direct westerly course, not far from the boundary line. coming out near our old Camp at foot of the bay. The rout at any other season would be very interesting at the time we passed the higer ridges were covered with snow, the scenery however is far from wintery in its aspect, nearly all the shrubbery being Evergreen, and a few flowers struggle out in sheltered places.- there are at least 3 species of Evergreen scrub oak.- which I collected in fruit- The rout is more abundantly supplied with grass and water than the old one. and with the exception of the first ascent on the Eastern slope which proceeds at once to the summit (3,000 ft+) is a good rout for pack trains.- The rout was discovered by Mr Gray Surveyor of the Commission - On descending to the coast. we exchanged the bleak snow-chilled winds for the bland air of the Pacific - The rains had clothed the dry hills, we had left in Sep. with a rich green — the ground everywhere carpeted with (Erodium Cicutarium) and fresh grass in the valleys. — Since that time we have had, a continuation of pleasant weather, alternating with rainy disagreeable spells, but generally fine sunshiny Spring weather, the thermometer ranging from 45° to 65° F. there has been but 2 frosts in San Diego —

At present there is quite a number of fine plants in blossom, also some new ferns I had not seen before, and some mosses, & Liverworts, — so that for the first time in my life I am kept busy botanizing in mid-winter [Plants sent to Engelm [illegible] (now

You have doubtless been informed by Maj Emory of the state of our affairs here, on my return I found most of the Commission dispersed, and everything to indicate a general break up. The Commissioner (Col Weller) is now here settling up the affairs, and the joint Commission, is to be adjourned to El Paso, for next Nov. in the mean time we are offered our discharges, & Certificates for pay due, and allowance of $300, transportation; as the funds of the Commission are entirely exhausted; no money can be got, — My medical pay has fortunately made me in a measure independent. — I have drawn nothing from the Commission except my travelling expenses, and salary up to April last

Under all the circumstances of the case I have concluded to apply for my discharge next month, and proceed up the Country by land, to Monterey. — I have received an invitation from a scientific friend, who was connected with the Geological Survey of N.Y. (Mr Randal) to come and spend the season with him — He is Collector of the port, and anticipates engaging in some explorations of the Gold region in the Employ of the State — as Geologist — If he should succeed I shall have an opportunity to visit some interesting sections of Country. at all events I shall not be idle, I hope to make some interesting collections in my journey up the Country next month; and I shall continue to send you my collections by every favourable opportunity — I have had no opportunity to send you my plants yet, and shall now probably wait till Maj Emory returns to the States, I have been so situated that I have not been able to arrange them properly or supply notes. except a bare mention of localities. I hope however to furnish them at some future time, — I am very sorry that the box you allude to as sent from New York has not arrived. and the probability now is, must be either lost or detained at Panama. so that I shall not receive it. Should it be returned to New York you can take charge of the books till they can be safely sent or untill I return — I hope however we shall yet recieve them, as they would be very useful. and a microscope, I must have as soon as I can afford it —

I still hope that something may turn up, more in accordance with our original plans of the Botanical exploration of this region, I shall consider it no loss to spend the coming season in the upper country but if any thing should turn up to favour our original design I am on hand. If the Commission should be properly organized at the other end of the line, and I can rejoin them under satisfactory circumstances I shall be ready. or if other Government expeditions should be projected in this region it is all the same. – though it is not a life that has so many intrinsic charms as to bear down all difficulties. I do not like to commence any thing & half do it.

Maj Emory is now at Monterey. and will return by the steamer that carries this. I think he designs returning to the States in March. – The Mexican Commission also design returning soon to the city of Mexico. The mail steamer will be down in about a week and I shall leave this open to add any thing of interest after this you may direct me at Monterey California where I expect to arrive the latter part of March

with much respect

Yours, Chas C Parry

Feb 1st. The joint Commissioners have had several meetings of late I understand it is agreed to adjourn the Commission to El Paso. for 1st Nov. I wish to delay taking my discharge. as long as there is any chance of continuing with any prospect of accomplishing my objects. I presume I can accomplish all I wish in this region the coming season, and if I could take a furlough for that time and then rejoin the Commission in time to proceed to El Paso I would adopt that course. I hope before leaving here that the matter may come to a clear understanding either by instructions from Washington or the arrival of a new Commissioner, in the mean time I feel satisfied that you will do all in your power to bring about a satisfactory arrangement being better aware than I can be of the projected movements – before I write again you will probably see Maj Emory –

Sand-Hill. July 8th 1851

Dr Torrey:

My Dear Sir:

Received your note of July 1st I had been absent for a few days, unexpectedly, but I hope profitably at Long Island, to stand at my sister's death-bed, and learn "how a Christian can die." – my feelings have been much distracted by this sad event, but I am getting into a business train again.

I like the labels but it will perhaps be hardly worth while to send a set, as I shall be down soon, and the set left at Washington will have to be over-hauled before I know just what is wanting.

I shall perhaps start for Essex Co. next week but shall have to contract my original plan, as my time seems to be getting short, and the reduction of my notes, is more of a task, than I supposed it would be.

I am anxious to know whether you have heard from Decaisne, in reference to the drawings, and that there will be no delay in getting them all completed by the time specified for the completion of my report, in Oct. next.

I have completed the copying of my N-W. Report. I have not felt in the humor of making many alterations, my attention being occupied elsewhere. I would like you to look up for me the proper authorities for Pinus Banksiana ( )?
Stipa juncea ( )?
Lichens { Cladonia rangiferina ( )?
Gyrophora Muhlenbergii ( )?
as I have no works to refer to in which they are contained.

I sent a set of mosses &c to Sullivant while I was at Washington, and requested him to acknowledge them by a note addressed to me at Princeton. It seems that this has not been received yet. - If they did not reach him another set should be sent on

I wrote out my notes on Cacti, and sent them to Engleman the 1st of this month. In the letter accompanying I stated that you were soon to send him the collections in your possession, would it not be well to have them despatched pretty soon; if there is any difficulty about the expense incurred, I will be responsible.

I see to day a rumor of Com. Bartlett's recall. If so it must induce some changes and confusion. I hope botany will not suffer

Have you any thoughts of attending the Scientific Association. at Albany in August? I shall probably run down and take a look at them.

I am likely to meet with a quite considerable pecuniary loss. on a draft procured for me at San Francisco. payment on which has been refused at New York. - I do not allow such things to disturb my equanimity, but it will have an important bearing on my future plans and may be an additional inducement for me to seek employment in another expedition

I will write you on my return from Essex Co. if not before

Most sincerely yours
C C Parry

SANDY HILL
JUL
9
N.Y.

PAID

8¢

Prof. John Torrey, M.D.
Princeton.
New Jersey.

Sandy Hill July 27th 1851

My Dear Doctor

Returned from my short trip to Essex Co. which was necessarily too rapid to accomplish much in the botanical line. I made however a quite interesting circuit and picked up something by the way that may not be altogether useless.

I landed at Westport, and penetrating into the mountainous region by the way of Elizabethtown, and Keene, arrived at the foot of Whiteface Mt. in the N.W. corner of the Co. We made the ascent on the Eastern side, and after some scratching & puffing, reached the summit in three hours travel. the view is less wild and rude than from Mt Marcy, but is still very commanding and grand. We were up early enough to see the fleecy clouds bathing the mountain valleys, and resting on the embosomed lakes, and watch the process of its disappearance when the sun arose in his strength, — the extensive plain extending to the St Lawrence formed a very pretty contrast to the rugged mountain scenery; cut up by roads and fences, and spotted with frequent settlements. it offered a very pretty birds eye view.-

Being several hundred feet lower than Mt Marcy its exclusive alpine character was less apparent, and in warm crevices many of the lowland plants had found a resting place. Thus we had to the very summit Cornus Canadensis, Ledum palustre, Rubus strigosus. ~~& prostratum~~ Amelanchier Canadensis Ribes prostratum, and even in one place I noticed a Dandelion, &c.. The more exclusive Alpine plants have been mostly before reffered to this locality Arenaria Groenlandica, & Potentilla tridentata, Empetrum nigrum.; Salix Cutleri (quite abundant). Kalmia glauca Nabalus Boottii Solidago Virga-aurea, a few grasses & Carices. On the ascent I procured fine flowering specimens of Platanthera obtusa,- Did not find as I hoped. Aspidium aculeatum. Of any of the above enumerated. I can furnish you good specimens for your own herbarium or distribution, A recent fire that swept over the summit, has obscured most of the mosses, & Lichens, but I have selected a few of the latter for Mr Tuckerman., and will bring any you may desire down with me.

I have not heard from you lately I suppose you are waiting to hear of my return. On my way back I followed down the Au Sable river. to its mouth & thence ~~down~~ up the lake home,

On the banks of the Ausable near the forks where two branches unite, and thence down the boundary between Essex & Clinton Co. I noticed quite an abundant growth of the *Pinus resinosa*. in fact I imagine, more than half the timber sawn on that stream, is of that character. In your State Flora, I observe you notice but one locality, for this species, in ~~the~~ New York.-

I hope to hear from you soon. and know what progress is making with the list of plants. drawings &c. - Next month (Aug) I hope to do up the Geology after a fashion, and you will probably be ready for me in Sept. - I suppose Capt Hardcastle & party will be in from San Diego by the next steamer. they may bring us some additions but I fear not.-

My respects to your family and sincerely Yours

Chas. C. Parry

Rec.d July 8th

Monterey June 1st 1850

Dr Torrey

Dear Sir

When I was hoping to hear of the safe arrival of my collection at New York - I was almost dismayed by a rumor of their probable loss in crossing the Isthmus - I have received no note from you to that Effect. but Maj. Emory droped me a line on his passage up to San Francisco. I expect to see him on his return and accompany him tomorrow to San Diego. my leave of absence having expired -

I have consequently no means of judging of the truth of the rumor. and still indulge the hope that it may not be true and though delayed the collection may come safe to your hands. I suppose you received the letter sent you by Lt Whipple. and know the circumstances of their being sent. I requested him at parting as a personal favour to look to their safe transportation and he must have been aware of the importance of their speedy transmission before the coming on of the wet season — Still if the worst is true, I wish to know it as soon as possible that I may go to work to retrieve the loss. as far as can be. - In future I think even at the risk of much inconvenience I had better stick to my collections. for I am satisfied there is no trusting to another person -

I know nothing about the prospects in reference to the Commission except. Maj Emory's note informing me that funds may be expected in the Steamer of this month and it is to be hoped a forward movement may be made before long.- I shall petition for permission to cross the country to the Rio Grande and the intermediate time I can spend near San Diego, and the mountains beyond.- I cannot foresee what circumstances I may be placed in but hope for the best.- You will have an eye out to movements in Washington. I hope you will be able to send some paper. which if I have to collect over again will be pretty scarce before I reach the Rio Grande I also wish to procure the botanical part of Wislizenus Report. which you might send by private hand, or mail. But I feel satisfied that you will do all in your power to increase my facilities in continuing my botanical researches.

I have made but one excursion of any importance in this vicinity viz to the Mission of San Juan. towards San Jose. without any important results. I have pretty well scoured this vicinity; for the last few days I have been assisted by Mr Lobb. English Collector he directed me to the locality for Pinus Edgariana (Hart which I had failed to discover, also Castanea. Chrysophylla. other plants of some interest I have also added to my collection, I was disappointed in going to Santa Cruz Mr Lobb brought down a fine collection from the Sierra Nevada some of which must prove new. he does not collect generally. His specimens go to Sir Wm Hooker

A great deal is yet to be done in this region particularly on the ledges of the Sierra Nevada N & S. but the expense of travelling is an insuperable objection to a person of small means, what an interesting work a Botany of California would be! to a collector properly equiped and prepared to decide what is new. two seasons. would I should think furnish pretty ample materials. and you are the proper person to mould them. I hope it may be done.

The gold excitement is overdoing itself- the mines are crowded. Mr Lobb informs me that. men are considered fortunate to make 3 or 4 dollars a day with hard work. and at this rate many are glad to "lay down the shovel & the hoe" the cry now is for situations not. men -

[Polygala cucullata Benth. pl. Hartw. 1849

I enclose you a specimen of the Polygala. Nuttalliana? found here. it is not uncommon on pine ridges. &c. — I expect to accompany this letter as far as San Diego. but am obliged to mail it here. I have not heard from you since last Oct — Have not seen Le Conte. I hope to hear from you in full before leaving for our overland journey —

with much respect
Yours truly
Chas C Parry

Prof J Torrey
Princeton N J.

Sandy-Hill June 18th 1851

My Dear Doctor:

I recieved the letter forwarded from Princeton, and thank you for attending to it. Enclosed is an extract from Maj E. to you about the printing of the Coast Survey Botany - What have they to print? —

I was glad to make the acquaintance of the Mess. Carey & and had a pleasant evening looking over the Hartwegian plants. they will be very convenient for Comparison. and though you will recognidge many acquaintances, they will also suggest some novelties in your Collection.

I have ensconsed myself in a 7 by 9 domicil and am working away in earnest. perhaps "Earning my victuals"

I saw Dr Emmons, at Albany. find him rather a dry stick, to get much out of. but he flatters me into the belief that I can make something out of the geology - He will get the fossils figured for me, and the sections drawn - which will be something, I am more anxious however about getting up a neat physical map. and hardly know how to go at it. —

I shall take my vacation in Essex Co in July visiting White face. Mt. perhaps going as far as the St Lawrence river.

you must insist on Maj Emory getting for you the "Sulphur" Botany; as looking over the narrative part in the State Library at Albany I see that they spent some considerable time in our Section, & Lower California.

I wish to be remembered to your obliging family, and remain most sincerely

Yours
C. C. Parry.

Steamboat below St Louis. March 16th

[1849 —]

Dr Torry

Dear Sir

I am improving the first leisure moment since your hasty summons to drop you a line informing you of my plans in reference to the same

Your Telegraphic despatch was 18 days coming from St Louis to Davenport and your letter of 16th Feby. came the next day 7th inst I saw at once that it would be impossible to reach N Y by the time specified and on considering the whole subject concluded to attempt to intercept the Company at the Isthmus, or short of it if possible I hoped to reach a telegraphic station before the 14th but the travelling was so intolerably bad, and the wires broke at different points on the route that I was unable to send before the morning of the 15th at St Louis, I hope to receive an answer from you at New Orleans, where I expect to arrive soon after the 26th and shall be governed mainly by that in my future course I am anxious least in concluding that I should not go with them other arrangements may have been made to exclude me, but as this seems the only chance to push ahead. I shall go on till stopped by unavoidable necessity I saw a slip in a Boston paper that Lt Whipple was to go by the way of New Orleans. if that should be the case. there will be no difficulty in intercepting him. — I presume the Company go out in the "Crescent City" but I cannot yet learn whether or not she touches at New Orleans. — I infer also that the object is to reach the April Steamer on the Pacific, and that will be my aim also—

I take with me only necessary articles & a few books I must depend upon getting other things from the Company I shall have barely enough money to take me to Panama, and if the Company has left shall be in rather a tight place. but presume I could get a passage on the statement of my case. I think the Commission were to meet at San Diego the 10th May If I can get along at all I can certainly get there by that time I case I should fail altogether. I dont know what I should do. I might conclude to stay South somewhere or return to New York—

I had made conditional arrangements unless nothing better offered to go overland to California, with some Emigrant parties, with Ox teams.— Though I anticipated considerable difficulty & perhaps failure from the vast number going over that rout. besides it would be far less interesting than the one involved in the Boundary Survey—

I shall then do my best to get up with the Company, and if I eventually fail I must bear my disappointment as well as I can & wait for the next chance—

I had not on leaving Davenport March 9th received the letter you mention containing the names of the plants I sent you — I made out my report as complete as I could without it and sent it on to Dr Owen. As I have made allusions to you in promising assistance in matters of doubt I suggest if agreeable to your wishes. that you would make out a suplement of whatever you may deem important in reference to the same and send to Dr Owen, New Harmony Posey Co Ia

I have not sufficient experience in these matters to know whether such a course would be proper. but you, of course know.

I left my collection. unarranged and mostly unlabelled, as I was waiting for information to know whether I was to put them up in permanent form I have written to Dr Owen. if anything be done with them to be sent to you. — I have also left a sealed request in case of my death that my entire personal collections. be placed at your disposal —

I shall probably soon be able to inform you more definitely of my prospects, on reaching New Orl if your despatch does not forbid, I shall push on for Chagres. and if possible not meeting the Company shorter I shall try to get to San Diego

With much respect Your friend
Chas. C Parry

MAR
22
10

Prof. John Torrey M.D.
Princeton. N.J

Recd. May 17th

Davenport. May 8th 1848

My Dear Sir

I have delayed answering your favours some time since recieved, wishing to inform you definitely of the prospects of my becoming connected with the N.W. Geol. Survey. I have now the pleasure to inform you that all is satisfactorily arranged and I am expecting our Company up daily; active preparations have been made especially in the Botanical line to secure the greatest results; Each division of the Company is to carry a press, and the parties are to be so distributed as to cover the largest extent of ground. One main division is to ascend the Des Moines river, to its source, thence crossing over to the Missouri going as far up as the ~~north~~ "Great Bend" from there crossing over to head waters of the St Peters, ~~to~~ where I expect to meet them, going with the main party directly up. – we are then to follow up the St Croix to its source, crossing over to Lake Superior &c. I am anxious to be on my way to secure the earlier plants. As Mr Geyer spent the best of the season on the Missouri I hope we shall be able to make valuable additions to his list, as well as ascertaining geographical boundaries, I should have been glad to have received some hints from you how to make the most of my time, or any points of special interest. It is my intention at present at the close of our expedition to visit the East, when our collections will be submitted to your inspection

I will endeavour to bear in mind your requests and shall be glad of an opportunity to thank you personally for the kindness you have shown. The cordial manner in which you have met my humble efforts hitherto, has given a personal character to my esteem, which however little it may concern you, is I must say very pleasing to me,

With much regard. I remain,

Your Obliged friend

Chas. C. Parry

Recd. 2and. Decr. 1847.

Davenport. Iowa Nov 6th 1847

Dr. Torrey

Dear Sir

I have an opportunity to send you a short account of my botanical labours, in this new western field; with a few specimens enclosed. I hope to be able to present you with a more complete suit at some future day – Of the plants marked doubtful I should be glad to have your opinion, as well as any general information that may guide me in the study of plants of this region, I have felt the want of works comprising descriptions of the Orders not contained in your Flora Please inform me of any such, and whether the Flora is to be soon continued. I have been in correspondence with Dr Mead of Hancock Co Ill, who is still an active botanist. he has published a list in "The Prairie Farmer" for the year 1846. – I have some prospect of connecting myself with the "North Western Geological survey next season as botanist, if you could assist me by a line of commendation I should be much obliged. and if I can be of any service to you in a botanical line I shall be happy to serve you. With regards to the members of your faculty, and wishes for the success of your worthy institution, I remain Dear Sir

Yours respectfully

Chas C. Parry –

Dr Torrey –

Recd. Decr. 23.

Eagle Pass. Texas Nov 26th 1852

Dr Torrey

My Dear Sir;

With more than usual exultation I am able to inform you of my safe arrival at this place after our long & tedious journey down the Rio Grande from Presidio Del Norte.

A kind Providence, has again given me renewed reasons for thankfulness in guiding my wayward steps in safety. through a most desolate country and given a reasonable success to my labors

I was prepared to expect something out of the common way in this last journey. but the reality has for once surpassed the expectation. I could hardly have fancied such a peculiar condition of country or believed that our tame acquaintance the Rio Grande could be induced to play so many singular freaks in the Mt Canons between this place & the Presidio Del Norte.- Though there is in fact no such thing as a regular cataract or perpendicular fall. yet the immense chasms by which it hews its way. through Mt barriers is most astonishing & includes scenery that I hardly believe the world can furnish a parallel to

The botany though not rich includes I am quite certain a fair share of fine novelties. & I have been fortunate enough to bring all my collections through in excellent condition. though at various times they have been in imminent risk, and once by the capsize of a boat, nearly all afloat, with small prospect of their recovery, they being among a very few things rescued. We were compelled by the difficulties of the trip, to leave unfinished a portion of the survey extending as we since learned some 130 miles above the mouth of the Pecos river, & make the best of our way to the Mexican settlements of the interior. in the absence of guides this was in itself with our large party, a rather hazardous undertaking but we came through without any accident & I had an opportunity of seeing a very fine section of country. that otherwise would have escaped me. including a singular basin formation, and a country unequalled for fertility & picturesque scenery by any I have seen on the whole boundary line. We had no Indian difficulties. though our route lay on the high way of the marauding expeditions into Mexico. at one of our camps we encountered a Comanche party. of some 80 men who professed friendship & passed us unmolested we since learned that the same party had just come from the murder of a party of Americans on the San Antonio road. In the Sta Rosa settlements we encountered "Wild Cat" with his tribe of Seminoles & negros, who if our party had not been pretty strong would have given us some trouble –

But here we have come to learn for the first time the perplexed condition of the Commission. Maj Emory had left this place before my arrival again in earnest quest of the Slippery Commissioner, who to follow out his well marked line of policy has taken a round about pleasure trip from El Paso. on route of Dr [illegible] Orleans to the lower Rio Grande – It is impossible to know what will be the upshot of this matter. but I am satisfied that everything will turn up right in the end. I am only concerned now to waste no more time in the field. I know nothing of the Majors plans. but I do not see how a temporary disbandment of the Commission can be avoided. and as far as I am concerned. a matter of indifference I am only anxious about the best means of getting home with my Collections – I met here after 11 months separation my old Comrade: Schott. our meeting being a pleasure that I have long anticipated ~~with pleasure~~. We find plenty to talk

about in comparing notes &c of our different travels
Schott has had a great many difficulties to contend
against. & has come off most honorably, fully justifying
your good opinion of him. Dr Bigelow. the same
good natured, zealous fellow, also met me cordially,
& I am indebted to his hospitality for a place to
lay my head, & a table to write to you from.

I received your note of Aug 11th & Sept 5th. - June 4th
being the last previous date - was glad to learn that
the plants sent by Wright had safely reached you, you
have since then met Mr Wright in person. and derived
of course full information of botanical matters up to
his date. I understand that the Major Emory, is not
altogether pleased with the way in which Mr Wright has
fulfilled his mission to you, but I think there can
be only some little misunderstanding, which can be readily
explained. at any rate I am certain that nothing but full
& complete justice will be recieved from you or Dr Gray,
by all botanical collectors and I think you know that
aside from the common forms of scientific courtesy I am
indifferent to personal eclat.

I also recieved from Dr Englemann on my return a
letter alluding to my Californian notes. &c which I shall
answer by this same mail, he does not seem to have
known that his answer to my notes sent from Sandy Hill
was safely in your hands.

You may expect shortly then to hear of some
definite settlement of our plans. & in all probability I
shall be soon on my way to the East

Pray present my kind regards to your family and
believe me

Most sincerely Yours

C C Parry

TORREY CORRESPONDENCE HERBARIUM COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY

Camp opposite Mouth of Gila – Oct 23d 1849

Ansd Jany. 21st 1850

Dr Torrey

Dear Sir

I have an opportunity to write you from the mouth of the Gila. and do not wish to neglect it – in giving you a brief sketch of what has transpired since my last –

Our long talked of Expedition did not finally leave San Diego till. Sep 11th we were escorted by 40 soldiers. and a train of 12 waggons – Our first Camp was at the old Mission of San Diego – whose gardens were still interesting by a growth of fine olive trees, pomegranates, & grapes –, the latter of most superb quality – leaving this we commenced directly the ascent of the Cordilleras. varying somewhat from Maj Emory's rout – following up the valley of San Diego river The mountain ridges have a very uniform Character consisting of varieties of feldspathic granite – We fell into the usual rout at Santa Maria – 6 miles East of San Pasqual from thence we proceeded to San Isabel. which is a fine location, and the old Mission grounds afforded an ample supply of fruit — From San Isabel there is a rout direct to San Fellippe about 12 miles. but not passable for waggons. and we followed the circuitous rout by Warner's – the dividing ridge lies between San Isabel & San Fellippe. and in returning I mean to take the cross cut, and determine the height – There are said to be pines on the road. Elsewhere on the rout they have been only visible on Mountain peaks. In the valleys of the higher mountain range, several species of oak abound – The live-oak is the finest it is I suppose Q. Longiglandi, from its fruit — There are a variety of interesting shrubs. of most of which I secured specimens — but the season was not the most favourable — I think I have got all the ferns. (6 or 7) to be found in this immediate range — a solitary *moss* alone graces my collection — I found near the head of San Diego river a singular filicoid, floating plant of which I enclose a specimen — Descending the mountains to the East a striking change comes over the features of the country after leaving San Fellippe — *desert* to all intents & purposes commences. — here the Larrea makes its first appearance and other desert companions — Fouquiera Spinosa is found on *all* gravelly ridges. reaching as I am informed to the western foot of Sierra Madre. — A pretty species of *Chilopsis* different from any mentioned in Wislizenus report also occurs — and others I hope you will see in due time. After leaving Carisso Creek we came on the table land of the *desert* proper — There have been quite important discoveries, since Maj Emory, passed, viz, several fresh water lakes at comparatively convenient distances. the first 25 miles from Carisso Creek — another chain of ponds some 12 miles farther is what is called the "new river — consisting of a chain of ponds of varying height emptying into one another by a perceptible current, setting to the west — they are evidently no novelties as their edges support a heavy growth of Mesquite and some bottom weeds — from their position they can receive only a limited drainage and must be dependent for supply on frequent showers. fortunately, or rather Providentially, the past season which has seen such an unexpected rush of emigration has been noted for abundant rain, and this has doubtless saved a great amount of suffering especially for poor brutes At new River the same Cause has started an abundant growth of fine Grama grass on the plain of the desert as far as I can learn a new fact – the grass is a species of Chondrosium, I think, and is probably the same as some of the upland species in New Mexico – New River, the middle of the desert is now a recruiting place for man & beast the contrast was very pleasing, from the dull plain of the desert to the fine green sward, which set off with the verdant hue of the Larrea, in places resembled more a gentlemans pleasure ground than a dreary desert –

I was surprised to find Mountain ranges, both to the North & South the entire distance over the desert on the south they come very near the road, so that at new river I was tempted to make an excursion on foot, while the animals were recruiting – I found them about 9 miles distant, – they are of basalt of a dreary brown character & rise directly from the plain of the desert destitute of all vegetation, lined at their base with a varying drift deposite – Since we have come West of the mountains, the weather has been intensely hot in crossing the desert the thermometer in the shade was frequently up to 108° F, and in the sun where we were obliged to ride mounting up to 130° F – which intense heat could only be borne by profuse perspiration and copious supplies of water – the air however has a singular dry bracing character, and the depressing effect of heat is less felt – There occurs on the desert, in considerable quantities

EARLY CORRESPONDENCE
COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY

some interesting shells – which will furnish an important key to its geological formation, they are fresh water & evidently lacustrine – no shells of any kind are to be found in the bed of the Colorado or Gila, either – We reached the Colorado on 30th Sept and our present Camp Oct 2d – here we are pretty much confined to astronomical duties and the vicinity affords at this season little to interest the botanist – I omitted to inform you I have secured flowering specimens of the Prosopis, Emoryi

I am sorry to put you off with such an hasty & meager sketch but as I must speak of other things I must leave details for a better opportunity – You of course have been aware of the change in the Commissioner & the appointment of Col Fremont – when I left San Diego the matter was only rumour, by last account it is authenticated – and by this time the new Commissioner is on the ground, necessarily changes must result – and among others Maj Emory will without doubt leave. I understand he has applied for his recall. I do not know yet how this will affect his assistants, some of them wish to leave, & the old Commission is trying to induce a general break up; I think there is little doubt that I can still retain a situation in the Commission & probably more desirable than the one I occupy – I have at least but one straightforward course before me, as long as I can satisfactorily accomplish the scientific objects with which I started on this expedition I shall remain, when these fail I shall look somewhere else – I am interested in this line, and all my zeal is enlisted in accomplishing a thorough botanical survey if compelled to seek another field! it will be with regret; this is all I can say till circumstances turn up – and by them I must be guided – you shall know the result – I intended in case it should seem best some time in the winter, to send you my collections of this season – of which I will give you due notice, begging you will excuse this hasty, Epistle I remain with much respect

Yours Sincerely

Chas C Parry

Mission of San Luis. Rey — Cal^{a}
Sept — 30th 1850

Dr Torrey

My Dear Sir —

I expect this will be handed you by Maj Emory, who expects to leave San Diego by the 1st Steamer — My new location will indicate an important change in my plans — Since writing you by the last mail — I recieved the offer of a temporary situation as act Surgeon to the military post at this place — after a due consideration of all the circumstances — I concluded it to be my Duty to accept — and have now entered on my duties —

I have not taken this step without much anxiety as affecting my connection with the Commission but I feel satisfied if you knew all the circumstances you would approve my course — I see no possibility of any active service from this quarter, and the temporary nature of my engagement will enable me to meet any requirements that may hereafter arise — Major Emory sanctions the course I have taken and declines granting me a discharge — expecting that I shall be authorized to follow him and complete a report of operations on this side — It is desirable in any case that I should remain in this region for another winter to secure the recollection of the interesting winter plants included in Lt Whipples loss —

I am in hopes the present locality may also afford some novelties — as there is quite a variety, of soil & scenery in this vicinity — which in many respects is superior to any part of Southern California —

I have packed for Maj Emory a duplicate set of my collections the past season — including several cases of seeds, fruits, and Cacti specimens — which Maj E. will deliver to you at New York — I have sent barely a notice of localities — my other notes being scattering, and no time for copying & collating as I expect to have plenty of leisure this winter I am reserving this task for a more favorable opportunity — I have also retained all my geological specimens — In looking over the collection, should you notice anything of special interest I should like to see it brought out as soon as possible — and anything that is deficient I may be able to supply — I was very desirous to secure seedling specimens of the 4 leaved pine, but all brought me were roasted; (of which I send you a specimen —) Should I return early next Spring I hope to bring a more extensive collection of seeds for cultivation —

Maj Emory will inform you of all the movements of interest in this quarter — and I need not prolong this sheet our last mail from the States past by without leaving the mail, and we are now obliged to wait for the downward steamer before getting our letters, — It may be advices may come that may detain the Major and prevent his leaving in this steamer — I have therefore enclosed this note to him requesting him to hand to you in person; or enclose it by mail in case he should be detained

Wishing you both a pleasant meeting I again

Sign myself in haste

Very Respectfully Yours
C C Parry—

Proffessor Torrey

Dear Sir

Maj: Emory is staying at the Pacific Hotel (I believe that is the place at any rate it is the Hotel immediately above the Astor House on Broadway) He is very anxious to see you as he has some plants &c for you he wished to see you today but I find you are not in town please to call upon him as soon as possible & leave word when you can call In haste & with much respect Yours

John Parry

N.Y. Nov. 9th 1850

Prof. John Torrey MD
No 67. Crosby Street
New York city
U.S.

New York. April 12th 1851

Dr Torrey.

My Dear Sir

I have the pleasure to inform you of my safe arrival at this place with with considerable additions to my previous collections.. in good condition)

I go up the river to night to pay a hasty visit to my friends and shall return to town on Wednesday or Thursday morning on my way to Washington - should I not meet you in town I shall make it a point to call on you at your residence on my way to Washington -

Having been delayed on the Isthmus a few days longer than expected. I have improved the opportunity to make a neat little collection of Isthmus ferns which I am sure will please you very much -

I am in good health. but somewhat fatigued by my journey

Respectfully & truly Yours
C C Parry

Rec'd June 5th
Ans'd " " "

El Paso. Texas. April 18th 1852

Dr Torrey

My Dear Sir:

I use the first opportunity to inform you of my safe return from our expedition of 3 months to the Pimo Village, on the Gila. of the commencement of which, my last letter informed you,

Two days from our start. Maj E. was obliged to turn back by news from a government express – this led to a division of our party. the advance being reduced to a force of 15 men. – By orders from the Major on reaching the first frontier town. we left our wagons & proceeded with packs. a more expeditious mode of travelling but not so convenient for the Naturalist. Our route led through a dangerous Indian country, and we had to keep up a strict guard especially at night. in which the whole party took turns, we were without even tents for shelter, and consequently had a good opportunity, for studying Natural Meteorology. – Still the trip, with all its hardships was a pleasant one, leading us through a most interesting region, – My first plant a species of Ribes, was collected Feby 17th, and from that on nearly every dy added to the stock – It will of course be impossible to go into any detail, My Collection embraces some 200 species. Many of these occur over a wide range. I found several California acquaintance.. and still more to my surprize some N western acquaintances. as Androsace occidentalis?

Batschia longiflora — On the summit of the Sierra Madre I met with Claytonia Virginica?

My best harvest however was gathered in the vicinity of the Gila, & the neighborhood of Tucson, in fact the entire jornada, between the two places, refreshed by recent rains, was a continuous bed of flowers, the valley of the Gila was also in the glory of a forward spring, and if I had had more time, to tramp about, (as we only staid one day at the Village,) I might have accomplished still more, Among other things that may interest you I found fine flowering specimens of what I suppose to be your New Genus. Hymenoclea. Emory's Report. — Other interesting plants include. Cruciferae. Onagraceae. Compositeae &c, which you will see in due time I hope,

On our return the season being more advanced, the same route furnished a fine collection, of the Spring flora of this region, of which Mr Wrights magnificent collection of last summer, will complete a fair view of the vegetation of this region. — A larger portion of the country traversed was capable of cultivation, than I supposed, & the grazing capabilities almost unequaled, The country about the San Pedro valley, is particularly desirable, in this particular, sufficiently testified by the abundance of deserted ranches, scattered for a long distance, up & down, at intervals of a few miles — It is now the pasture ground of wild cattle, & horses, which furnish the roving Apaches, with an important means of subsistence.

We returned home, to El Paso, on the 11th inst.– Much to the relief of our friends, who had been alarmed by a current report that we had been cut off by the Indians.– the report even went so far as to specify that a careless individual who left the train in quest of weeds was the cause of involving the party in the combat which resulted in our defeat, & slaughter, The facts of the matter is, ~~that~~ we only met with a small party of hostile Indians, who did not dare to try the capacity of our guns, and when we showed signs of giving battle in earnest, galloped off & we saw them no more– Depredations however occured frequently both just before, & behind us, in one case a party of 8, were murdered the day after our passing the same track– We were favored to escape without serious loss, or accident., and are now trying to get used to the akward processes, of sitting on chairs, & sleeping in houses, with roofs on

I found Mr Wright, & Bigelow, zealously at work in gathering up the plants, of this locality, some of which are very interesting, Wright's list includes already 150 Species– I have now to speak of a matter that is soon likely to affect my future movements materially.

Maj Emory is anxious that I should return home, to the states, to attend to office work & the preparation of our report. as there is no prospect of any more expedition, to separate our now small party in different localities

TORREY CORRESPONDENCE HERBARIUM COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY

He thinks, & I agree with him, that Mr Wright & Bigelow can do all the collecting, and it is his intention to follow out the policy of despatching from time, to time, duplicate specimens, of collections, to be worked up as fast as received. — My only objection to going home so soon, is the appearance of deserting the field, while the harvest is just coming on — Under the circumstances however of our being a single party, to go down the Rio Grande, and a sincere wish to give Wright every chance to complete the botany of the region in which he has so justly distinguished himself. — I think that in this I shall not be doing injustice to you, as you know very well that all the specimens collected, while Maj Emory is in charge will come first to your hands

My sudden coming out here, did not give me opportunity to make the preparation, I would wish for a long campaign. So I have acceded to the Major's wish & shall hold myself in readiness to embrace, the first good opportunity, of returning with all the collections, I can rake up. amongst us. — About my return route, I am still unsettled, wishing to make the most of my route I hardly know wether to choose the Texian, or Santa-Fe, route, though probably in order to cover a larger region, of observation, I shall select the latter. In the mean time, & till starting, I shall busy myself in filling up my collection, with every thing I can get in the vicinity This delay may be longer than now expected, & till the time comes, I shall go on as if I was to spend the entire season, 5th

I enclose fragments of some small specimens that may interest you. Eriogoneae are begining to make their appearance & will be largely collected - I had an opportunity to see fine specimens of the Cereus Giganteus, of which I have drawn out a detailed description for Dr Engelman. unfortunatly it was too early for flower, or fruit - its anatomical structure is very peculiar.

In reference to the distribution of the California plants I wish to leave it entirely at your discretion - where the specimens are sufficiently numerous I see no objection to their immediate distribution. -

You must not consider my return as anything certain as it depends on many contingencies

My kind remembrance to your family. You may assure the ladies ~~that~~ I shall be satisfied to bring one skull home safe this time

Respectfully & truly Yours

C. C. Parry.

P.S. Mr Wright writes to Dr Gray by this mail. Dr Bigelow to yourself - They are now both absent on an exped'ion to Lake Guzman -

Franseria Deltoidea

Nemacladus - n. sp.

Epilobium - n. sp. sent before by Wright.

Recd. June 10th

Answd. June 10th

Monterey. California April 26. 1850

Dr Torrey

My Dear Sir

I have an opportunity to write you from this point. having accomplished my contemplated journey up the Coast. We were just 4 weeks on the road. the distance being about 500 miles I had an opportunity to collect quite largely of plants on the way of which there was an interesting variety The first part of our journey was made somewhat disagreeable by rains. the swolen streams frequently obliging us to swim. with the additional risk of getting mired in the quicksand - but before reaching Los Angeles. the weather cleared up & was uninterruptedly fine the remainder of the journey

It was certainly just the time to see California to the best advantage the bare hill sides. were clothed with a rich green. and spoted with flowers of every hue. while the plains & valleys were beded with the most luxuriant pasturage I ever beheld the Erodium - covered extensive fields - nearly as common was a species of Medicago. and with these was mixed in quite a variety of Clovers - the wild oats were just heading out. are they not the same species with our cultivated? - Wild mustard was also common - I found the Dendromecon for the first. within a day's ride of San Diego. but did not see it again till near this vicinity. - I found some of Nuttall's plants in the vicinity of Santa Barbara. but did not have an opportunity to ascend the mountains in rear of the town - I collected in flower fine specimens of Cercocarpus, betuloides (Nutt). which however I think only a lowland variety. of C Parvifolius - The Nuttallia - was found near San Luis Obispo. and in this vicinity it is quite common

There was not much variety in trees. - a deciduous leaved oak a species of Walnut (Juglans.). in adition to those found before

Pine makes its appearance above San Luis Obispo. a species with very large cones. another species of pine is common about here. ..

In this interesting locality I am making aditions daily. though there is not much chance of making discoveries. on such well explored ground. I am taking more than usual pains with my collections. which will be interesting in the way of Comparison –

The expenses of travelling in this country will limit my observations more than I expected; I hope however to make a trip before leaving to the mountains of Santa Cruz. on which Douglass made some fine discoveries – There has been here lately a collector in the employ of the London Horticultural society. Mr Lobb. he is now absent on a trip to the Sierra Nevada but I expect will return before I leave – he has been in the employ of the society some 11 years. mostly on the S. American Coast. I hope to induce a gentleman settled here. a physician to make a complete collection of the plants of this locality. he has commenced a collection. and takes quite an interest in the subject – I shall suggest to him to send his plants to you. and hope it will be a mutual advantage – the gentlemans name is Dr Andrews.

This vicinity is the pleasantest I have yet seen in California though there is not much cultivable ground in this neighbourhood. the convenience of the harbor and abundance of pine timber, give it an advantage, it is only 120 miles to the Mariposa mines and the journey can be made with packs in 4 to 8 days –

My leave of absense will expire the 17th May. and I shall then return to San Diego. unless otherwise advised – I have heard nothing from there. but from the tenor of news from the States I judge that something will be soon done to render my course in relation to the Commission plain. – I should think however that the Major's idea of returning to the States would hardly meet the views of Mr Ewing - Should we be ordered overland to the Rio Grande. I shall not be much disappointed especially if I can there secure facilities for continuing my Collections. Should it be found advisable or necessary to leave the Commission I shall return again to this point and engage in some business that will give me an opportunity to examine the country as far as practicable, - and probably in the winter pay a visit to some of the Pacific islands -

I have no letter from you since the one dated Oct. but I hope to hear soon and shall be much influenced by your advise on the subject

Yours with much respect

Chas. C. Parry.

April 29th - I hear that Dr Le Conte is at San Jose. near here. hope to see him before leaving I enclose. 2 plants. one a Viola found about here not described in your flora another filicoid aquatic. found in a rocky brook near San Luis Obispo I do not succeed in finding the Viola Chrysantha - Credited here. by Douglass Hope you will recieve my Collection sent by Lt Whipple. in time to acknowledge its reciept by the April Mail - I feel anxious least they should be injured by wet. as I had not the means of securing them as well as I wished. -

C C P.

Lemanea variegata Agardh -

Viola pedunculata -

MAR
3

40

Prof. John Torrey. M.D.
Princeton.. New Jersey
U.S.

Ansd Nov. 8th
~~and~~ Sent to Eagle Pass.

Camp near Presidio del Norte
August 7th 1852

My Dear Doctor;

The express mail leaves in a few days to intercept the mail from El Paso to San Antonio, and I improve it to inform you of matters touching my future movements. In my letter of last month I expected to return with Maj Emory to Leona, but have since determined on joining the surveying party that follows down the river from this place. Unless the difficulties of this job are greatly exagerated we shall have a rough time of it, & may be delayed several months. I am accordingly making my arrangements, leaving the greater part of my baggage & collections, to go round with the train to Eagle Pass. — & taking with me only necessary articles. I shall have to be rather choice in my botanical collections, but shall try to let nothing of particular interest escape me — I anticipate some interesting geological developments in the river Cañons through which we pass. — Another inducement for my going is the probability of our meeting Schott & his party who are ordered to work up & meet us above the mouth of the Pecos, — We are provided with two serviceable India rubber boats. Easy of transportation & a great help to us in making the necessary portages. —

Dr Bigelow has lately arrived here from the road, is as zealous as ever in collecting. intends writing you by this opportunity. Maj Emory has about finished his observations here, & is thinking of leaving soon for Leona, & Eagle Pass. — Mr Salazar the Mexican Commissioner is also here. and we are driving business ahead about — as fast as such things generally can be made to go — We have little expectation of seeing our Magnanimous Commissioner, at least till we get near the River's mouth

This locality is very dry in plants, & Dr Bigelow is looking out for some old excursions - He met the other day with a few specimens of what we take to be your Nicolletia Edwardsii. he will probably enclose you a specimen. I am glad to hear that you are enquiring about the Nyctaginæ & we hope to give you some puzzles in that family. Before this reaches you we hope Mr Wright will have dropped in upon you with his bundles, and I am half afraid that these contain the best part of our years collections though we hope to bring you a fair supplement.

On reaching Eagle Pass, the lateness of the season, and the well known character of the country will offer little inducement for my remaining longer than to go rapidly down the River, to its mouth, & thence I shall probably be ordered home with the finale of our collections. I hope Schott will be allowed to accompany me - I hope to hear from you on reaching Eagle Pass in November next

Very Respectfully Yours

C C Parry

San Diego. Cala Aug 26th 1850

Dr Torrey

My Dear Sir

I received your letter of June 28th by the last mail your previous favor of the same month I acknowledged in my last. — I thank you for your kind attention to my interests expressed in your note, which I hope I have learned to appreciate —

I showed your letter to Major Emory who was not very well pleased with the tone conveyed in Mr Bartletts letter to you — as he thought it implied a reflection on himself — It seems certainly strange that after receiving orders from the Secretary of the Interior to reorganize the Commission his appointments should be repudiated. In letters acknowledged by the department as early as April 10th my name & duties are mentioned & notice of my appointment as Botanist & Geologist is distinctly made in a subsequent letter of April, which must have reached the Department prior to Mr Bartletts confirmation.

But I myself feel little interest in these political features of the case — my course has been, & will be, to sustain as far as I can the scientific interests committed to me & leave political manœuvring to others.

Major Emory is much exasperated that the promise of funds to be sent out has not been complied with — he attributes it to rascality but I cannot think that an official promise like that conveyed in the Secretary's letter of April 10th "Funds will be sent you by the next departure from New York" — could be thus openly violated; still despatches have been since received including one up to June 20th which do not so much as allude to the subject — and we are still in the same situation we have been for months — without a cent of money, and dependent on the Army for what to eat — Major Emory is even unable to raise money enough to take him home — and most of the employees have been compelled to resign on paper pay — As far as I am concerned as I believe I told you before I have not yet received one months pay for my services, and all my expeditions have necessarily been carried on at my own expense — Still I do not wish to complain, for it has at least taught me economy, and I have not yet had to suffer for want of "food to eat or raiment" (such as it is) to put on —

Major Emory at present expects to return to Washington in the Oct steamer. he has given me the option to return with him or wait what may turn up — however desirable it would be to leave this country in my present position — I have not hesitated to chose the latter as it will involve the possibility of going to the Colorado to recover some of the plants which were included in Whipples unfortunate loss — Should this be the case I shall send by Major Emory, a set of duplicate specimens & keep the remainder to share my own fate

I have seen lately a list of the new appointees under Mr Bartlett they certainly muster a strong force as to numbers, and it will need a big appropriation to keep them in provision, the number of representatives from the District of Columbia, smacks strongly of the political agency at work — a little experience of this country, and the difficulties of transportation, & subsistence, would give preference to a small & efficient force in place of a pack of Washington boys — I do not see Mr Thurbers name in the list — Still I hope that something may be done and I am willing to bear a hand in it, or forbear & look on — The probable changes in the Cabinet consequent on Genl Taylors death must doubtless have an influence, and it is to be hoped a favorable one Major Emory in his despatches to the department. this month alludes to Mr Bartletts letter to you — I dont know whether that is exactly right —

But to speak of other things — The surveying party in the field have made considerable progress in running the line over the mountain range — and are now not far from the divide. which is much the nearest to its Eastern base. and overlooks the desert — I imagine the line will strike well to the South of the desert. and be included in an irregular mountain range running nearly E & W which bounds the desert on the South —

We hear frequently now from the Colorado. the emigration having commenced to come in — The river has fallen 8 ft the last month — "new river" is also down — and fine grass is already sprung up and fit for recruiting animals — this is all within the past month — I am satisfied with all information I have been able to gain that "New river" in its first appearance at least is connected with the Colorado — seeing it only in its low stage last season I was inclined to a contrary opinion — but now I am decidedly convinced of its connection — From an eye witness who happened to cross the desert at its first appearance — says "he met a large body of water moving about 1 rod the hour passing towards the mountains to the west —" arriving at the Colorado he found it very high — and overflowing its banks at various points owing to the easily washed nature of the soil sloughs are easily formed. A comparison of Barometrical levelings made by myself shows that the bed of "New river" is below the ordinary water level at mouth of Gila — Its connection with the Colorado must be very tortuous, and include a length of nearly 100 miles — There is some excitement trying to be got up about the navigation of the Colorado. & a small vessel has lately been sent round to the mouth to test its navigability. I doubt whether much will ever be accomplished in that way except by light draft Steamers — Col Carasco of the Mexican Commission: who

TORREY CORRESPONDENCE
HERBARIUM
in
COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY

floated down from the mouth of the Gila to the head of the Gulf last Dec - describes it as unfit for navigation - says its course is very tortuous, and frequently hemmed in by cañons - he estimates the distance by water from the junction of the Gila to the mouth of the Colorado at 200 miles - the meeting of tide & river water the latter charged with sediment makes dangerous shoals. the water at high tide spreading over a large track of mud which reveals itself when the tide ebbs - If you have seen Lt Hardy's account of his voyage in 1828 to the mouth of the Colorado you will see a correspondence in their statements - but Lt Hardy - somehow strangely mistook a slough of the same river for the mouth of the Gila - and has put it so in his map - which has generally been followed, whereas he probably never reached within 100 miles of its mouth at nearest - There is a new city now laid out on the site of our observatory encampment called "Gila City -" But I fear I may weary you with a detail of matters in which you are not interested - The fact is Botany offers nothing at present and I have been confined to the Secretary's table for the last month -

To conclude these with other town excitements I have to record a small shock of an earthquake felt on the morning of the 12th inst - it was sufficiently evident to make the adobe house in which I was sitting creak and rattle down the mud plaster from the roof. it continued near half a minute its course seemed to be from W to E. - Connected with the same subject is the rumor of an active volcano somewhere on the Eastern edge of the desert - it is an Indian rumor & if true will doubtless be heard from again in a more authentic shape - Our mail does not close till the 3d prox and I shall leave this open in case of further news - my next may be conveyed to you by Maj. E - in the mean time I am

With much respect
Sincerely yours
Chas C Parry -

Camp 10 miles above El Paso Dec 4th '51

My Dear Dr

Our mail by the way of San Antonio leaves in a few days. and we have the first opportunity to inform our friends of our safe arrival. having reached El Paso on 25th ult. having been just 6 weeks on rout from San Antonio.

We are now encamped on the Rio Grande (East bank) in a cotton wood & willow thicket, where we amuse ourselves in digesting beans & bacon and hoping for better times.

The Major still occupies quarters at Coon's hacienda opposite El Paso. In a few days he expects to assume command and Col Graham takes his departure for Washington –

The affairs of the Commission, as you may learn better from other quarters are in the most deplorable plight. Mr Bartlett, with most of the party have departed to parts unknown (i.e.) California, leaving the ballance of the party without funds, or work, or anything else, except provision to await the action of the Department. of the Interior.

Nothing short of a reorganization of the Commission will be necessary to recommence & accomplish the work

Maj Emory's orders are after relieving Col Graham to join the Commission, this in the present circumstances will involve a chase across the country, which the inclemency of the season & want of a proper outfit must at least delay for several months, Maj E talks of organizing a small party and start in pursuit as far as the Pimo village on the Gila, should this be carried into effect I am selected as one of the party, Mr Schott stays behind.

It is however impossible to say what will be done, and we must manage to live through the winter as we best can

I have requested permission of Maj Emory to put up a small parcel of the plants & seeds collected in route to be sent to you at New York we hope to get them despatched by the return train of Col Graham. The box will be directed to the care of E & G W Blunt, and marked (plants & seeds) We hope you will receive it by the latter part of the winter and in this expectation need not go into any detail of our observations. I have been able to do more than I expected in collecting at so advanced season & think you will find some nice things. Mr Schott has collected also in the route, and I have looked over his collections & selected my duplicates accordingly, the greater part are still with me, and will be kept till I hear from you of the safe arrival of the others, Thurber is gone with Bartlett over on the Gila and in report says to San Diego. It looks very much as though there was book making contrivance in the wind. as Mr Bartlett has attached to himself a scientific party & is determined to cover the whole line. Thurber I think is concerned in this plan, which is an ungenerous one I think should be frustrated as far as possible. Wright is here with Col Graham but now absent on a surveying party up the river. I think his claims as the pioneer in this district are paramount. and hope that the collections sent to Dr Gray will be studied out & published as soon as possible so as to secure the priority. Dr Bigelow is also here I have not seen him yet.

You will find a very good general account of our route in Pub Doc. entitled "Reconnoissance in Texas & New Mexico." including Lt Simpsons report - The map accompanying shows our track being the one surveyed by Capt French &c We passed over at least 4 distinct botanical districts. the 1st including the head waters of the San Antonio & Nueces Rivers, 2d The table land & singular valley of Devils River, 3d The Pecos & its Eastern & western tributaries, the latter reaching to a dividing ridge attaining a height of 7 to 8000 ft above the sea And 4th

The Rio Grande valley —

The prevailing geological formation is lime stone forming table land several thousand feet above the sea. The Carboniferous formation said to be represented but I think it is too recent. when we first strike the Rio Grande. Silurian Rocks. highly inclined & dipping west are met with. The Divide between the Pecos & Rio Grande is a mountain region. In one locality on this divide I met with the Pinus Edulis of Engl— very near but distinct from my Californian pine. — The Juglans Whippleana was constantly met with in the pebbly beds of all streams from Devils River to the most western tributary of the Pecos. It frequently attained a size of 12 inch diameter & 25 ft high but more often was only a small bush growing in clumps & bearing fruit abundantly. some of the specimens sent you I hope will be able to come into cultivation.

The Ungnadia or "Texas Buck Eye" is constantly found from San Antonio to the Rio Grande and reaches even the highest elevations in the Limpia valley I therefore conclude that it will be sufficiently hardy for cultivation in the Northern Atlantic states

We hope to hear from you by the mail due on 10th inst. there is now a bimonthly mail running from San Antonio. leaving 1st Jany next &c. This will be the most expeditious route. I have got to the end of my paper & must close. wishing to be remembered to your family

Most Respectfully Yours

Chas. C Parry

TORREY CORRESPONDENCE HERBARIUM COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY

(P.S.) Dec 8th We are now expecting our mail via Santa Fee, which continues on to San Antonio. I have seen Dr Bigelow & looked over some of his collections. which include some nice things. but rather roughly put up. there are 3 pines all I think included in Wislizenus also one Abies - near to A Douglasii I noticed also a new Anemone from the Copper mines & several nice ferns. — I have thus got an inkling of what I may expect next year. I was surprised to notice in the Collection, the Eschscholtzia Californica. also a Californian Calochortus. The collections of Wright & Thurber are very extensive & complete and as they will no doubt eventually get into your hands I think the Botany of Bdy Survey, will come out at the top of the heap. Maj Emory has just assumed the command and has in view important changes among others Schott is to go back to Eagle Pass West of San Antonio & survey the River down this will give him a distinct field for botanizing but I shall be sorry to loose his company and sketching powers — Maj Emory decides on starting for the Pimo Village unless circumstances prevent should we do so I shall write word by the next mail which leaves 20th inst by Santa Fee. If Schott leaves he will start about a week after the mail I have access to Wrights books including the Flora and some Monograph lists. so that perhaps it will not be worth while to send my copy. I wish however if you have opportunity you could send next Spring through Mr Blunt some pressing paper of which I have only a scant supply — Wright says the Juglans Whipplei is a described species in Fendler or some where else. I enclose specimen of (Hydrocotyle from Comanche Springs)

TORREY CORRESPONDENCE HERBARIUM COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY.

The Box sent will go with Col Graham & be: C C Parry — Directed to you to the care of E & Geo Blunt; Several packages go by this train to Dr Gray. which you will have an opportunity of inspecting you can from that write me direction that may guide me in my collections to the best advantage

270/4
960

Camp on Rio Grande above El Paso
January 14th 1852

My dear Doctor

Though Botany is rather dry out here at present we think it worth while to let you know that the Botanists are still alive, and they as well as their companions the Mules, are hoping for fresher times ere long. The only green thing I have noticed lately is the grass trying hard to sprout on the floor of my tent. Still we have no reason to complain of the weather, which for the past month has been almost uninterruptedly fine the days are even occasionally sultry, but during the long nights, the radiation into the clear atmosphere brings down the temperature, to a good freezing point, and ice not unfrequently forms one or two inches. For the last two days we have encountered the severest weather of the season, the thermometer standing on the morning of the 13th inst at 16°7

I have busied myself since friend Schott's departure in various minor excursions in the vicinity mainly with a view to get an inkling of the Geology of this district - which proves to be exceedingly interesting We have in a small space quite a variety of formations. including granite. intrusive porphyry.

Jany 22d We have just broke up camp en route for the Gila. Maj Emory expects to make his head quarters at one of the Mexican frontier towns and from thence will despatch me with a small party & pack animals to the Pimos Village or possibly the mouth of Gila We have just heard by express from Sonora of the death of Genl Conde Mexican Commissioner who accompanied Bartlett part way down the Gila, and was taken sick, from which he did not recover I do not know how the sad event will affect the Bdy Survey

Silurian, & Tertiary Strata. The latter covers much the largest space forming desert flanks on all the mountain bases - forming the table land to the alluvial river bottom - and constituting the dry "jornadas" over which the traveller is compelled to pass in going from one point to another. On one of my trips I ascended the highest point of a considerable Mountain Range East of our Camp. It attains a height of something near 2000 ft. above the River, and commands a most extended prospect the wide Tertiary plain extending like the sea in which it was deposited to the confines of the Mountain ranges, which now serve it as a shore

I have little doubt but the Argentiferous formation occurs in this vicinity in connection with the Porphyritic ranges which are frequently connected intrusively with the inclined Silurian Strata

On our expected trip Westward, I hope to visit some of the mining locations, & thus get a means of comparison for other districts.

It seems as if I was fated to have the subject of Geology thrust on me wherever I go, and in the end I presume I shall have no reason to regret, though it seems irksome at times. it has at least had the good effect of inducing me to read, & reflect, on the subject more than I otherwise would, and I find that my interest increases, as my confidence grows stronger. Maj Emory is quite solicitous that I should make this my main object. and perhaps it will be quite as well to make a show at least. that they may not think in Washington that with so many Botanists, we are running the thing into the ground.

Our long talked of Expedition to the Gila is now appointed to start on 20th inst, I do not think the Maj' expects to make a very arduous trip of it, and it depends on so many contingencies, that it is hard to foresee the final result. I hope at least to be able to enter on a fresh field and am particularly desirous to secure the Early Flora on our return.

I miss Schott's Company, very much and am almost out of patience, that he could not have been retained in these more interesting parts. I think also he is not well contented with his appointed situation.

Should you get hold of Bigelow's plants in good season you will probably have the botany work pretty well under weigh before our return. The only thing that I can't understand, is how your labors, which are so essentially important, and involve so much of your time, should go unremunerated. - there seems to my mind to be some manifest injustice in it, to which I for one do not like to be a party. What can be done in the case?

In the plan of operations for the coming season I do not see any signs of prolonging the work, more than one year, and I am pleasing myself with the idea of spending the next winter with you in New York, in making up my report. We must try hard to scare up at least two new Genera. the *Emorya*, and *Salazaria*. the latter out of Compliment to the Mexican Astronomer who is quite a clever and amiable fellow.

We get no news of any kind here except in letters, as newspapers are too bulky, & naturally get lost on the way—

By my first letters from home I am informed of the recovery of the sum supposed to be lost, on my San Francisco Bill of Exchange, the House in San Francisco being in good standing & redeemed their paper without suit.— Connected with this matter I may mention now the strong probability of my visiting Europe, when this Bdy job is completed, a design which I have long cherished but have never before seen the way clear to indulging my wishes. I shall at least have an eye to this in my collections and I am sure that you will extend me every facility in your power to make my visit profitable. I don't know whether you know that I am in fact a native of England, and consequently possess a goodly number of relatives on the other side of the water who will serve to render my visit the more gratifying. I mention this matter now in hopes that it may be in my way to be of some service to you in this design of mine, but this matter will better be a subject of conversation hereafter—

With many kind remembrances to your family

I am with much respect
yours Sincerely
Chas. C. Parry

Davenport Jan 30th 1849

Dr Torrey

Dear Sir

I am begining to fear from not hearing from you, that the parcel of plants I sent last November has missed its destination. I hope it may not be so, and that they may come safe to hand.

I have sent on to Dr Owen the first sheets of my report, reserving the rest, to modify according to the informati I desired from, you, unless this should arrive soon. I shall have to send them in their imperfect state, and your letter to come in as a supplement.—

Since writing you I have paid a visit to our Illinois Botanist, Dr Mead, whom I found quite an enthusiastic old man, his collection is quite extensive, and his informat on the plants of his region, very complete—

He informs me that you have named a species of Asclepias, after him. I have frequently met with the same hereabouts, and it is the A, periplocæfolia? of my list—

I find on farther examination of some [illegible] of my plants that they are more interesting than I supposed, thus Oenothera. rhombipetala, Petalostemon. villosum, &c. I have also corrected some mistakes into which I had fallen— I cannot pretend to determine the Carices, &c —and know not whether they are of any special interest.— I have applied for authority to put up the government collection in permanent form, but have no instructions to that effect.— unless it is done they will be comparatively valueless, and I shall be in favour of placing them at your disposal. —

I am now particularly interested in watching the California, excitement. — to see how it may affect scientific interests in that quarter — As there will be undoubtedly scientific Corps sent out next season. I hope Botany may claim her share, — Unless some government situation should offer by that time, I shall in all probability join an Emigrant party, in the Spring, and make collections as far as can be done with such limited means. — If I could secure a government situation I should embark in the cause with a good deal of zeal. and with more hopes of accomplishing something for the science of Botany. — I am not much of a hand at seeking for such appointments, but I think by your influence. and some others that I have secured. my chances are good. —

As I expect to go at all events, I would be pleased if you could furnish me any information, that might be of assistance, to make the most of my opportunities, also any points of special interest to you, — any published lists, or descriptions, that might be useful. &c. —

Dr Mead informs me that. Dr E James, who accompanied some of the earlier western Expeditions is living in this State at Burlington, I believe he has done collecting now. —

I am glad to hear of the continued prospects of your institution. as I occasionally meet a member from there. There is a medical institution started in this vicinity the Chemical. Prof. Exploded a few gasses, and then went off himself — the West is a great field for scientific schemes. —

I have just got hold of Emory's report. which is quite interesting at this time — Emigrant parties are forming in Every town & village about here for the "Gold region" and I Expect there will be a singular time. they generally design going with waggons & ox teams. by the regular northern rout. — I suppose that rout has been pretty well scoured for plants. but I should probably have a better opportunity for taking pains. in the Collection. and by a proper selection. could make an interesting assortment. for private Collections.

We should start from here I suppose Early in April which is now close at hand, and as I should be glad to hear from you before then. I drop you this line. notify you of my plans —

respectfully Yours

Chas C. Parry.

Prof. John Torrey, M.D.

PAID

Prof. John Torrey — M.D.
No 67. Crosby St.
New. York City

DAVENPORT IOWA
FEB
2

institution.
There is a medical insti
Its Chemical. Prof. Explode
off himself — the West
schemes. —

Recd. Sept. 15th 1849.

"Camp Riley" near San Diego July 26th 1849

Dr Torrey

Dear Sir - I have at last the pleasure of directing you a letter, from this long-sought point, at which I arrived on the 13th inst. after a voyage of 20 days from Panama.

I had written to you from that place on 26th May, informing you of my detention, which continued till 24th June. The latter part, was particularly unpleasant owing to the prevailing unhealthiness of the place, of which you no doubt heard exagerated accounts, I was favoured to escape any serious disorder, though we all suffered more or less.

Our Voyage on the whole was pleasant. the ship not being so crowded as formerly, and the satisfaction of knowing that we were escaping to a more genial Climate, gave new zest to our spirits - We however lost 7 men on the voyage, mostly cases of fever, resulting from exposure in crossing the Isthmus.-

I am now up to my usual health under the bracing air of California, the climate is all that could be desired. Thermometer varying between 65° & 80° - and agreeably tempered with Sea breezes, our Camp is at the southern point of the bay, marked on Maj Emory's map as "the Punta," at this point the principal Astronomical observations are to be made, and refered

It is now the middle of the dry season, the ground is every where parched, & the streams dried up.- the surface of the country is rolling, & treeless, the swells gradually enlarging to moderatly high mountains, in the distance - The vegetation is consequently not much varied, with the exception of saline depressions, a very small circuit would probably embrace all characteristic plants, of these the most common are various species of Artemesia. Isomeris arborea. Hemizonia fasciculata

Calycadenia, Venella &c— I have noticed about here 5 species
of the Cactus family. and a species of Ice plant Mesembrianthemum?
is particularly abundant covering the ground in extensive
patches. and so thickly beset with watery glands. as to make
the feet wringing wet in walking over it.— I shall send you
some seeds + One of my most interesting plants is of the Poppy
family.— when I first saw it I thought. certainly I had got
hold of Nuttal's, Dendromecon. But I do not find it described
in your flora. it is 3. sepaled. 6 petaled, and the flower
3 inches or more in diameter white.— suffruticent. &c
I shall secure seeds of this as well as every other interesting
plant, and hope you will be able to produce some of them on
New Jersey soil.— In reference to plants generally. I propose to
take notes, particularly of evanescent Characters & habit, and when
possible collect the different states of flower & fruit—

On reaching San Diego. the Maj. placed in my hands your
bundle of notes. I was gratified to have so full an explanation
of your silence, and am sorry you should have felt any
anxiety on my account.— I have received too many evidences
of your kindness ever to doubt for an instant your good will
to me, and be assured Sir. that you cannot do me a greater
favour than by giving me opportunities to oblige you.

Maj. Emory has informed me that after 1st Aug. my salary
will be increased to $900,— a similar increase being made to
others, I suppose to keep us from running away to the mines
I also expect to be detailed. as Surgeon to the first reconnoitering
party, to the mouth of the Gila. in which case, I shall have
an aditional claim, So you see I am not likely to lack for
employment— I spoke to Maj. Emory in reference to a microscope
& he wishes you to procure one, he has directed me to write an

order to G W Blunt Esq of New York to procure one, on your selection, and send on to this place - You can also hand over to him any other articles you may wish to send, directed to Maj. Emory, as he has charge of his business at N.Y. Please mention to him about packing them so as to keep dry, as some of the Stationary sent by him last time was somewhat damaged - This will relieve you of most of the trouble.- I wrote you last time to be sure & send "Lindly Veg Kingdom" purchased on my own account. If you have not sent it before you can do so through Mr Blunt.- I think best also to get 2 Reams of pressing paper, if the Maj agrees I will have that also embodied in the Order to Mr Blunt.- (I prefer ~~brown~~ unsized paper)

I expect to start in 2 or 3 weeks, with Lieut Whipple for the mouth of the Gila to be gone about 3 months. the object is to determine the Astronomical position of that point and we shall probably be pretty much stationed, except in going & returning, I shall improve all the opportunity of making Collections, and will give you a full account on my return - The Colorado is represented as overflowing its banks and there are rumors of a new river having broken out in the middle of the desert -

As you suggest I shall box up & send you my collections before leaving the coast for good, (or before then) for our final departure is very uncertain as additional appropriations will be necessary and the action of Congress may be long delayed - (We are rather expecting Genl Taylor will send us a new Commissioner;) As the work now drags along we are in for a long job, & 3 years is now the shortest limit set It makes no difference to me as long as I find a new field to operate in

We are here quite shut out from the Gold Excitement save the occasional desertion of a soldier. The true state of the case is begining to appear — that is, there is gold to be had by hard work, and severe privations so it is dearly bought; and easily got rid of, — Its chief effect here is in increased prices of food, & labour, Horses, & mules, are also high

As Maj Emory is writing you by the same mail as this — he will inform you of his wishes in reference to any thing he may wish you to procure. He has requested me to make a description of the commonest "Artemesia" about here, which is the true "Estafiat" of the natives, I do not find it satisfactorily described in your Flora.

Perhaps I cannot do better, than fill up this sheet with a description of the Papaveraceous plant mentioned above; I can perhaps enclose a capsule — [No doubt Romneya California; Harvey]

Calyx, 3 sepaled, caducous; Sepals disposed in a globular head, irregularly shaped, each edge alternately folding over, & being folded under, its proximate sepal; outer portion hirsute with stiff bristles,; inner portion a membranous expansion, forming a prolonged wing — Petals 6. attached in 2 series, broadly round-cuneiform; circumference crenate; — Stamens numerous; inserted into the thick torus; — filaments somewhat club-shaped; purple towards their insertion; anthers innate, — Stigmas, about 12, radiate on the top of the Capsule; alternate with the placentae. — Capsules oblong-ovate, crowned with the Stigmas the placenta forming a central axis; Externally hirsute with close short bristles — Leaves (lower) pinnatifid alternate, the segments falcate, or long wedge-shaped, toothed at the extremity; of the upper branch (leaves mostly wedge shaped, & bifid; — petioles set with caducous bristles. — Stem smooth suffruticose — Hab — Edges of dried streams near Southern point San Diego bay. Stems smooth, and glaucous, with a large central pith, — 4 to 5 ft high in thick bushes, mixed with the remains of previous year's growth, — Flowers white, 3 inch diameter; plant not juicy; leaves with a permanent taste, like Aconitum. —

Yours very respectfully Chas. C. Parry —

San Diego. Cala July 30th 1850

Dr Torrey

My Dear Sir:

Contrary to my expectations I write you again from this place to which we are still confined by want of funds, though I am nearly certain we shall receive something in the mail from above the despatches, as is usual taking this round about course to reach us. The Major's patience is pretty well exhausted, as you may suppose, and his situation with accumulating, and often pressing debts, anything but comfortable.

It seems the appropriation bill for supplying deficiencies including fifty thousand for the Bdy Service passed in May. but through shortsightedness, or neglect, it cannot be made available here till the middle of Aug. I see not how the party here can finish what is to be done, and fulfil the engagements to meet at the other end of the line in Nov.

By the Major's last despatches, he is ordered to finish up the field work and repair to Washington to make out his report - the remainder of the party are ordered across the country to El Paso. but we are without escort, and without means of transport, and to command such things on short notice in this country is out of the question so we seem to be in a dubious fix - My own wishes always have been to cross the country but there seem at present great obstacles in the way - The Major has just sent a small party into the field on borrowed resources, they are instructed to run the line as far as practicable, and fill in a topograph sketch of the country traversed.

I accomplished my contemplated journey to the mountains of lower California returning the 16th inst — it was more tedious and trying than any I have yet undertaken. the scarcity of water & necessary forced marches under a burning sun made it extremely wearisome and I have been troubled up to the present time with a dull headache in consequence — It was not however without results — a short distance S of the line I found a region corresponding to the other side of the mountains near the Colorado. all the varieties of Mezquite were in full growth and other desert plants — I also came on a shrub species of Ash — which I think must be new it has long wand shaped branches proceeding in a cluster from the ground leaves in 3s or frequently reduced to a single leaflet. seeds of the usual Fraxinus character — I noticed a dwarf Palmetto. Retracing our steps & taking a more northerly course in the vicinity of the Boundary line. I made search for a species of Pine of which I had seen imperfect specimens — a conspicuous landmark termed "Los Pinos" was first reached. but to my disappointment I found it only a fancy title and had to pursue my way for another dreary day's journey — the country was very much parched and the narrow valleys intensely hot. our trail as blind as a trail well could be, & provisions scarce. still I determined to push on — and near the close of the last possible day that we could continue our onward progress I lit on the object of my search

The singular novelty and beauty of the tree repaid me however all my toil — its characters are so singular & unique that I enclose you pretty full notes — and a rough sketch — besides this I secured fine flowering specimens of Adenostoma sparsifolia a very pretty & fragrant shrub - though never as your notes in Emory's report states. 30 ft high - it is but a small branching shrub with the habit of its congener A. fasciculata, and seldom reaching up to a horses back - its bark is of a hazel-brown & its leaves a yellowish green - it is very fragrant, resembling in smell Aspidium fragrans --

I have to acknowledge the receipt of yours of June 11th it was accompanied by one from Lt Whipple. confirming the worst news. in reference to the lost plants - under the strange circumstances of their loss I have scarcely a hope of their recovery. and feel I can assure you much disheartened. Little as I like to indulge in personal reflections I must say that I feel personally injured by this needless neglect - nor does his explanation relieve the matter. He states that he just missed them in Gorgona. but instead of instituting a proper search. he writes on a mere [illegible] to the Capt of the steamer to know if they were not left on board, and pushes on without farther troubling himself about it - The Maj & myself have both seen the Capt repeatedly, and he very reasonably did not think it worth while to answer Whipple's queer letter. the fact is the box was landed at Panama & either left there, or lost in its passage to Gorgona. -

Thus it seems the labour of a season is lost. and can be but partially repaired the collection was made under some favourable & many disagreeable circumstances - my opportunities are now limited and my zeal in the heartless task of recollection far below that of a first discovery - what I particularly regret is the loss of the plants from the Colorado & the earlier plants of this vicinity including mosses &c many of them very interesting. But it is useless to indulge in regrets. I would wish the box recovered if possible, even in a damaged condition as the known plants might be referred to their proper names & some of the novelties. by the assistance of notes and recollection rescued — I have commenced to make limited collection of the plants of this vicinity. and should I cross the country as now contemplated many of the plants of the former collection may be in time replaced —

What course will be finally adopted in reference to the Commission on this side is impossible to foresee and I have ceased to calculate. whenever my own situation becomes disagreeable & unprofitable I shall request my dismissal and return to the states. my desire is still to spend at least another season on the Sierra Madre & head waters of the Gila. The course of the Del Norte being over more explored ground is less important. —

I thank you for the summary of Botanical news. which is quite refreshing in this dry region. The present season is evidently much more arid than the last and less favourable for collecting. I had word of you from Dr Halsted in his last passage down but did not see him. Dr Le Conte is now gone up to San Francisco — We expect the steamer in a few days. and shall leave this open in case of farther news

Signing myself in the mean time

Most Respectfully Yours

Chas C. Parry —

Arrd – { Augt. 11th –
Sept 5th

Camp on Rio Grande. below El Paso, Texas
June 2d 1852

My Dear Doctor:

This letter will inform you that the design expressed in my last letter to you on my return from the Gila, is given up, as Maj Emory has since concluded on sending Mr Wright, home in charge of collections, who is to start on 15th inst in a return train to San Antonio. I am, I must say, better satisfied with this arrangement, and the more so as Mr Wright also seems pleased, with the prospect of seeing his friends in the north, and reviewing his previous collections. He will probably write you by this opportunity, in reference to this subject, & you may expect to see him in N.Y in Aug next. Mr Wright turns over his stock of paper, & books, to myself, & Dr Bigelow, so that we shall be tolerably well prepared to do the best we can in his absence.

We are at last en route, down the River, this being our last camp, near settlements, from which our final outfit, will be made, to bring us in the latter part of summer, to the Northern Texas Settlements on the lower Rio-grande, Our present immediate destination, is the Presidio del Norte, some 250 miles hence, from which point having made observations, we shall continue as near as may be to the River till we reach *Fort Inge on the Leona*, our next outfitting place, where I wish you would direct your letters to me hereafter. — We are making calculations for a hot siege of it this summer, which has now fairly begun, with most oppressively sultry days, but cool nights. the intense glare of sunshine, on the desert plains, we shall encounter on the march, is almost insupportable, & we shall have to make the best of the matter, by turning amphibious. — There is a prospect however of summer rains setting in early this season, which will be a great relief, — Still it is surprising to see how vegetation is adapted to this arid atmosphere. You will now find on the dry gravelly plains quite a verdancy of shrub foliage, including *Larrea*, *Mezquite* & *Fouquieria*, Agave, *Yucca* &c — in full flower Our collections, particularly near Frontera, will be quite copious, Mr Wright with characteristic industry having recollected many of his old discoveries, & no doubt added to them. Dr Bigelow's collection is pretty much a duplicate of Wright's, and you will be pleased to see that he has improved very much in specimen making, under Mr Wright's instructions. — My own separate collections are more select, as I was obliged in the early season to adapt myself to the convenience of quick travelling. A large box of Cacti has been put up by W. & B. which the former will take on direct to St Louis. — I design paying special attention on our return route, to the collection of seeds, for horticultural purposes — Hope that by next spring you will have a pleasant

garden on the Hudson, to avail yourself of my collections.
I have not a word from Schott. but learn indirectly
that they have been mostly stationary near Eagle Pass,
Orders have been sent for them to proceed from that
point, up the river to meet the downward party, & thus
complete the survey of the most difficult part of the
river. (riv) between Presidio del Norte — (to which point the
downward survey is now finished.) & Eagle Pass, the
head of boat navigation. Should all our plans
succeed, we hope to get to the mouth of the River
by next winter, & then I suppose, botanists may go
home — Your letters forwarded to Schott, have been
duly despatched, this is the first opportunity since my
return of writing to him, of which I shall avail myself,
we shall perhaps meet after our long [illegible], in Aug
next —, We are expecting an upward train from San Antonio
in a short time, containing some spring supplies. In case
you have sent me any books, or papers, I presume I
shall receive them by this train. — Geo. T. Bartlett. brother
to the Commissioner, left here some time since for the
States. I suppose expecting to meet his brother in Washington
We seem to be getting along very well without that
functionary, who as was expected, has become entangled
in the Californian whirlpool. — Thurber as you say
has had many opportunities of collecting of which it is
to be hoped he has availed himself, but he has left
a bad name behind him here, as a troublesome
interfering fellow, whose highest aspiration is to keep

in the good graces of the Commissioner, for his own special interest - I forget whether I told you that I met opportunely in one of the towns of Sonora, with a bundle of pressing paper, left behind by him, which I took occasion to seize, & fill with some nice plants, - don't you think it was a lawful prize?

I received your letter of Feby date, by the last San Antonio Mail, others received later dates, from you, Wright received the last sheets of his plants, so now we have good dates, to go upon in expecting novelties.

Am glad to hear that you have other collectors in training for the field, - Wright is anxious to get into a new field of collection, either with a government expedition, or on private means, Maj Emory allows him to retain the body of his collections, as his salary is small, he goes home on his own expenses, but will of course have them refunded - My own thoughts for the future are set upon a European Voyage, as I mentioned to you before, The Survey of the N W Bdy must be looked out for, I see Geyer quoted as a late collector in Oregon, is it Nicollet's Geyer? - Dr Engleman alludes in one of his papers, to a German Geologist Dr Roemer, who examined the Geology of N W Texas, I would like to get hold of his work, as a guide - Have a nice collection of Silurian fossils, from this locality, & by following down the River, hope to get the key to the order of succession, of the strata, - I will write again by the first opportunity, which may not be till our arrival at Fort Inge.

Respectfully Yours

C C Parry

Recd. Aug. 8th

San Diego June 25th 1850

Dr Torrey

My Dear Sir

As I informed you in my last. I left Monterey in the June Steamer. (Maj Emory being on board,) and in two days reached San Diego. In looking about the warehouses in San Francisco. Maj E.- was fortunate enough to light on the long lost box. which notwithstanding its plain direction lay neglected and covered with dust. - though late we were glad to get at its contents. which we found however in rather mouldy plight - the instrument boxes fell to pieces as we took them out. and your present to the Major. looked like a fair candidate for the antiquarian Society - my own books owe their better preservation to an extra allowance of covering - The instrument. with the exception of the box was in good order. and I am quite delighted with it - I have not sufficient practice in dissection. to use it to much advantage but hope to improve - the books sent are invaluable. - I found the vegetation much as when I first arrived last July. the Ice plant was in full blossom. and the early annual vegetation disappeared. it is singular to notice how complete this disappearance is. so that in visiting well known localities hoping to secure some seeds I have not been able to detect a trace. - Finding so little to do here about I persuaded the Maj to allow me to make an excursion to the Mountains. from which I have just returned after a most interesting trip of 10 days. - with 2 mules and only a single companion encumbered only by the necessities of food & lodging - I started direct for San Isabel. my principal design being to explore the divide between that point & San Felippe - directly on this divide is the ranch of a deserted Sailor well acquainted with the mountain passes and by his direction. I made excursions in various directions - I found in this vicinity 3 species of Pine. 1 Thuja. 1 Abies. also.

a variety of fine oaks – The Pines were all noble trees, one 5 leaved with very large drooping Cones: another remarkable for its Cones, shaped like a pine apple, with hooked scales – the third was a tree of beautiful proportions Cones smaller. I secured as far as possible good fruit specimens, – Of oaks there are 3 evergreen including the common Q Californica, – and an alpine species confined to the ridge, a stately tree with an Elm like bark, its wood said to be black at the heart & its fibres closely interlacing; – there were 2 deciduous leaved oaks sizable trees, though not the proper time of year for securing the fruit, I did the best I could frequently obliged to content myself by picking up some worm Eaten specimens off the ground. – these trees alone would be well worth a special visit to secure their perfect fruit & sections –

After scouring the ridge pretty effectually, I descended to San Felippe and here had an opportunity to review to some extent the desert flora, I secured fine specimens of the new Chilopsis, abundant in that locality and found other singular plants that had before escaped my notice, among others a Prunus with dehiscent pericarp – A very singular Rhamnaceous? shrub with lemon yellow fruit the size of a small gooseberry, a thin external pericarp enclosing a regular boney nut in which are imbedded 3 green fleshy dicotyledonous seeds, the branches spinescent, I think it must be a novelty. I found a Fumaraceous plant apparently intermediate between Dielytra & Corydalis – I paid special attention to the Cactaceae of which there are some interesting kinds, one a gigantic Echinocactus, of which a specimen furnished the following dimensions height 2 ft 10 inches, circumference 3 ft – There was also a very interesting Cereus, of which I made the important discovery that its fruit was deliciously palatable, I wish to name this after Dr Engleman, (Cereus Englemania)

You may imagine from this brief sketch how much of interest I encountered, which I do not hesitate to consider the most profitable yet spent in this region - Returning home, I determined to attempt a new & direct rout, and gathering what information I could we started for home with 2 scant days provisions. I found however an excellent road and in 2 easy days travel, (50 miles) reached the vicinity of San Diego much pleased with my trip

For some unaccountable reason we have heard nothing from you in relation to the plants sent home, leaving us in anxiety whether their rumored loss is true or not - Maj Emory heard from Lt Whipple who mentioned every thing all right - so that I am hoping the rumored loss to be unfounded. without doubt we shall hear from you by the return mail from San Francisco.

Maj Emory received private notice of funds being sent out by the last Steamer but most unaccountably these too are missing when if ever they do arrive matters will be brought to a head speedily - The prospect now is of our return to the States, and in some respects it would seem desirable; more than anything else I am anxious to secure the safe transportation of my specimens on which I have bestowed too much pains to subject to the risk of crossing the Isthmus alone in the wet season

There seems to be endless rumours of the probable movements & the Commission in its reorganization in the States from the tenor of letters from the department to Maj Emory I cannot think that we are to be discharged and I shall return to the States with the design of proceeding in my present Capacity to the other end of the line. I am above all desirous to connect my observations here with corresponding ones on the Sierra Madre & head waters of the Gila - If I am required to make out a report under your assistance it would require several months stay, and as that interval might not be very profitable spent in the field I have thought how it would answer to spend the coming winter in N Y and repair early the coming season to Paso del Norte.— The main thing at present however is to secure my permanent station on the line and for this probably a speedy return to the States is desirable.

I met quite unexpectedly Dr Le Conte at this place on my return from Monterey, he is stopping at the new town of San Diego in which I believe he is somewhat interested he speaks of making great discoveries in the insect line most of his collections being new Genera or Species.

On my return to this place I *first* encountered your letter of Jan 21st Its enquiries I presume have been sufficiently answered in the frequent letters I have since sent you, the annoyance of lost & delayed mails in this country is intolerable and reflects great neglect somewhere every letter one receives in this part of the country alludes to others long sent, & lost.—

Should funds arrive and it is determined to return to the U.S. I suppose we shall follow this letter on the next monthly mail and preclude farther correspondence for a time, Should any thing occur of special importance before the mail closes I shall leave this open to subjoin it

Yours with great respect
Chas C Parry.

P.S. – June 30th Since writing the above I have been some 10 miles up the coast to the mouth of Solidad valley to examine a seam of Lignite which is exposed in the high bluff overlooking the beach. – it is made quite a handle by speculators as a Coal mine but is of more geological than economic interest the seam being thin at best and irregular. it is found in the same tertiary strata in various places along the coast as high as San Francisco – But what was more to my surprise I here found a new species of pine growing in sheltered places about the bluff. its characters are so unique I am in hopes it may be non descript – or it may be one of Coulters doubtful species described from cones alone. – If new I wish it with your permission to bear the name of Pinus Torreyana (n. sp.) I subjoin the following Characters — Leaves in 5s. (6 to 10 inches long) palish green distinctly scabrous serrate upwards on the edges; joining at base to form a close cylinder embraced in a permanent sheath – Cones orbicular conic (longitudinal circumference 1 ft 2 inches length 4½ inches, horizontal circumference at largest girth 1 ft small full grown specimen) ; Scales thickened forming irregular blunt 6 sided pyramids ending in a lighter coloured deltoid acumination with a bluntish hooked point. in fresh specimens the acumination sends irregular rays down the sides of the scale (larger scales 1¼ inch long horizontally 3/4 inch perpendicularly – The cones are sessile and recurved downwards on the branch – Matured seeds very large almond shaped surrounded by an oblique fin shaped wing; shell hard & bony Tree rather globular shaped branches pointing upwards in exposed places prostrate. measurement of a medium specimen girth of trunk near base 3 ft 10 inches height 25 to 30 ft near this same place is the locality where I first detected the Dendromecon. which I visited again and found it quite abundant – knowing your interest in this singular shrub I cut a [illegible] a stick. hoping to afford you an opportunity to support your steps by it some day – it has a pale shaggy bark. and a central pith. the wood itself seems durable and tough. – I forgot to mention that I am able to extend the geographical range of this shrub to the eastern slope of the mountains. having met with it quite unexpectedly in a desolate pass near San Felippe from whence I procured fine fruiting specimens –

The Major has desired me to make some more detailed explorations near the boundary line. and I shall embrace the opportunity. to make a push into lower California – there is an interesting change in the geological formation the mountains presenting singular tabled summits I should like very much to get on the ridge which perhaps may afford a view of the Gulf This will probably be my last exploration in this region at present – The Major has expressed to me his intention to order me home as soon as funds arrive

Yours &c

C C Parry

Arrd June 11th

San Diego California March 24th
1850

My dear Doctor

I recd your letter of Jany 19th yesterday. I sent by Lt Whipple a box to your care containing duplicates of Parry's collection (complete). The unfortunate counsels that prevailed when this Commission was converted into a political Convention ~~seems~~ still to prevail. You ~~appear~~ to be aware that I had in disgust asked to be relieved from this business. Well what do you think was the result? I was deprived of my military command, (by which my pay was reduced one half, and the only means taken out of my hands by which the work could be carried on and which has been the only reliable that I have ever possessed,) but I was not relieved from the commission. I was directed to take charge of the Commission & the very agreeable task imposed me of discharging all of Weller's party except such as I might deem competent & necessary for the work. But not a cent of money has been sent me, not a mouthfull of provisions to feed those I might retain or a letter of credit to the collector of San Francisco who is groaning under the weight of his golden responsibility. At the same time it must have been known that the commission was over head and ears in debt without a mouthful to eat or a wheel or hoof for purposes of transportation. Had the command of the escort remained in my hands I might by a stretch of authority have used the military resources to push on the work & save the humiliating spectacle of the total and absolute wreck of this commission in the face of a respectable foreign one. ~~But~~ The whole business looks like a persecution of myself, and when it is considered that the patronage of the ~~[illegible]~~ commission has been at the service of my arch defamer & enemy the Chapel Hill man and that he stated in his speech in defamation of the lamented Kearny that he would have his revenge on me, the whole business ~~looks~~ smells very fishy.

It does not stop with leaving me here to cleanse the stable until money is appropriated when some ~~[illegible]~~ politician will be sent out as Commissioner, but I am ordered when ~~[illegible]~~ relieved to report for duty in California to take the place of one of my ~~of~~ former assistants the lamented Capt Warner! Where if I stay five years I shall be without instruments without money & without means of any kind to make myself useful. Besides, this order of course, necessarily plunders me of all the work I have done here this summer, there being no means here of producing my report.

Owing to the great dispersing of our instruments the whole determination of the great astronomical line forming the Boundary between the Pacific and Gila River has been in my hands, the Mexicans readily yielding to my results. The observations upon which this is based form the indispensable record & evidence of the Boundary. Can any one make up this record but myself? And if so will it be fair to rob me of what is justly my due? Besides I have served far, far beyond my tour of duty on distant service & the order is unjust & infamous in he who devised it to the last degree.

I hope my friends personal & scientific will make some effort to have me dealt justly with. I shall write by the mail which carries a direct appeal to the President for the outrageous treatment extended towards me & if that fails you may consider me as good as out of the service, until then I need not remind you who have been so long associated with the Army of the caution necessary to be observed in any use you make of what I write. Our rules are very stringent and I think properly so.

Parry is gone to Monterey by land, when he returns we shall have swept every thing clean in Southern California in the way of Astronomy, botany mineralogy & topography. I hope you will send the boys by Whipple, I know ~~the~~ some of what you will furnish too strong to make it necessary to request to renew over to none but the proper owners. In the mean time I entirely acquiesce in your suggestion to secure the new things by publishing brief descriptions in some journal of science.

In regard to serving on this commission any longer ~~ass~~ I cannot do it, unless I have the absolute control of the whole business civil

San Diego Cal.
Apr. 4th /50

40

Dr. John Torrey
Professor Medical College
New York
City
N.Y.

and military. I have too much knowledge of the difficulties & trials to be encountered in traversing the country to place myself at the mercy of any man less experienced. It must be under one head, and owing to the very hostile character of the Indians it must be a military head, for ~~a~~ civil officer possessing no legal right to command would soon find himself by the force of circumstances nothing but a prisoner of the Commander of the Escort.

Very truly yrs W. H. Emory

Panama May 26th 1849

Dr Torrey

Dear Sir

I have opportunity to write you by one of our Company who returns to New York tomorrow. I have little to say, except that I am detained here with a part of the Company to wait the sailing of the "California" which has just come in and will probably not sail till the 10th of next month,— In the mean time I have nothing to do but wait patiently, Major Emory and all the instruments having gone on in the Steamer "Panama" The weather is quite pleasant now at Panama, but the climate is enervating, and the least exertion is fatiguing; I am very sorry that I omitted to take your advice and bring with me "Lindley's Vegle Kingdom" as every thing in the vegetable line is so new to me here, I can make little use of my previous knowledge. The fruits too are many of them singular & interesting but I can't get much clue to their names.—

Dr Halsted, I believe, is expecting to return by the mail steamer to New York, I hope he will be able to furnish you some materials in reference to the Botany of the Isthmus,—

Major Emory tells me that I am to pass as one of the Computers of the Astronomical Corps, and my duties as naturalist will be only incidental, but there is no doubt the opportunities will be sufficiently ample

The Commission is likely to meet with a good many hindrances, as according to all accounts, it is doubtful whether we can muster a sufficient force to carry on speedy operations, all means of conveyance as mules & waggons, are stated to be very high.. at all events we shall likely be detained near San Diego, for several months

I wish if you find a good opportunity you could send me any thing in the way of books, or instruments that you may deem useful during the expedition which is likely to last longer than I had an idea of.– For any expense you may incur if you will be kind enough to send the account to my father Joseph Parry – Sandy Hill, Wash' Co N.Y. I have requested him to settle the same,– It is likely there are expresses established by this time, and by directing to the care of Major Emory, I think there would be no difficulty in receiving –

In reference to my plants of last year. I suppose if the report is to be printed. Dr Owen will write you in reference to the suggestion I made of your adding a paper on the subject; it would be proper in that case that the original report be sent to you If nothing is done with it, you can make what use you see fit of the plants sent you.–

I have not received the letter you sent me at New Orleans, to be forwarded here. so I suppose it was not sent on.

I hope you will write me at San Diego, and be sure if I can serve you in any way it will give me great pleasure to do so

Very respectfully
Yours
Chas C. Parry.

P.S. C. L. Weller, brother of the Commissioner, & disbursing officer of the Corps, goes by the Steamer on business for the Commission to Washington, He expects to return in July or Aug.—

Prof. John Torrey M.D.
Princeton. New Jersey

Davenport Nov 15th 1848

Dr Torrey

Dear Sir

I have hardly got over the bustle & hurry consequent on my return to the abodes of civilization, having been delayed in the N.W. longer than there was any botanical necessity. I am also sorry to say in consequence that I must give up my idea of visiting the East this season. I have accordingly a few days ago packed you up hastily a collection of plants, such as I thought would interest you, including specimens of all my grasses & Carices, on which particularly I wish your opinion not having the means of satisfactorily determining them myself. Please inform me also on all doubtful points, signified by a blank or (?), with any other information you may deem interesting in making out my report. I hope you will receive the collection in good season as I am required to hand in my report by 1st January next, but if I do not hear from you by that time I shall make it out in such a way that I can add the desired information from you afterwards. — I have enclosed a number of duplicates of the most interesting, and would have added to the number & quality, but one of my bundles has been taken down the river by mistake including my best specimens of Aspidium fragrans. I have hardly a doubt from your account that this is the same plant — A few days after I wrote you from St Croix, I found what I suppose to be Woodsia glabella. Br. though seeming to vary in some respects. My entire collection of N.W. ferns is 26. Lycopodiums 6. Equisetums 6 including among the latter Equisetum variegatum, found on Montreal river Lake Superior

I had an interesting trip since writing you. by the way of St Croix & Bois Brule rivers to Lake Superior. which however I did not reach till 21st Sep. in time to see every thing touched by the frost. The Botany of this region however closely resembles that of Northern N Y so that it made less difference, in the absense of other interesting matter I turned my attention to making a collection of Mosses & Lichens —— I was disappointed in not being early enough to meet Prof Agassiz, Le Conte. & party on Lake Superior. I understand they had a botanist in company, if there is any published account of this expedition. I should like very much to get hold of it for comparison.

I was fortunate enough to be at, *La Pointe*. Madeline Island, at the time of the annual Indian payment, at which some 1500 of the Chippeway nation were assembled, I improved the opportunity to obtain some interesting information of native articles of food & medicine, On my return to [illegible] Falls. I made an overland rout by what is called the "Long portage". to the head of St Croix. 70 miles which is a regular "Indian Trail" over which we were obliged severally to pack our provisions & blankets. — One of the most striking features of the upper St Croix country is the barren ridges. generally running parallel to the river. covered with a growth of *Pinus. Banksiana* and undergrowth of huckleberry, wintergreen, &c. among other plants of interest I may mention. Polygon*um articulatum*, Ari*stida. tuberculosa* Hudsonia. ericoides, Potentilla tridentata, —

I have received *not one*. addition to my collection from other members of the Corps. The majority of them are lazy fellows. who stick to the canoe and confine their observations. to river banks &c. there are some exceptions however. Dr Jackson. who has charge of Upper Michigan. has made himself very unpopular in that region by his stiff manners. and has got the ill will of all the linear Surveyors, especially by some countenance he has given to articles disparaging Dr Houghton. who is almost idolized in

TORREY CORRESPONDENCE HERBARIUM COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY

that region. From these and other circumstances connected with a probable change of administration, I think the survey will hardly be continued at least under its present organization another season

I should like very well to be able to continue my N W observations on the Upper Missouri, but if I am to go on my own responsibility would rather fall in with your suggestion of California, my wishes have been directed to that quarter all the time, and I only want a feasible opportunity to put my plans into operation. I may have an opportunity of connecting myself with an Emigrant party and should have no hesitation in doing so if I could accomplish my ends.—

I would like to know if there is any connected account of Oregon & California plants? also what would be the best plan of preserving and carrying plants on such an expedition? &c.

Should no good opportunity occur I would like your advise on another point I have had thoughts of getting up an illustrated flora of the N W. to consist of collections of the more interesting plants put up in herbarium style and issued in yearly numbers of say 50 each — could I obtain sufficient subscribers to justify the undertaking?—

I should have written to Dr Gray, if I did not suppose that I was doing pretty much the same thing in writing to you. please bear him my respects, stating that I have had reference to his wishes in the collection I have sent you, with regard to the matter of Exchanges; in my present unsettled state it will be better to waive the subject anything I collect will be at your service I have farther to request that you will inform me of the expense you may be at in receiving the collection that I may refund it, as I shall have a sufficient return in the information you will give me

With much respect your friend

Chas. C. Parry

San Antonio. Texas Oct 10th 1851

My Dear Doctor

We have reached this point on our journey and have nearly completed our arrangements for commencing Camp life again

Our journey to this point was quite interesting I found the country more picturesque than I expected the prairies being agreeably diversified with Oak Openings. running water however was very scarce The prairie flora has a greater similarity than I expected to find with our N Y prairies, perhaps more striking at this season when Compositeæ prevail than in the Spring.— The oaks are of several Species. one Evergreen.— in the River bottoms we have Elm, Ash, & Pecan Hickory &c. our Elm. seems to be different from any in the States and I enclose a Specimen in fruit for your examination

My collections were of course limited, and the country about here being pretty well known I felt at liberty to play the amateur, Maj Emory saw at Indianola 2 Boxes of plants directed to Dr Gray I suppose from Wright. they will contain no doubt some interesting specimens

Schott. is quite zealous for collecting, but is rather rough, and does not take pains in selecting his specimens, I think by a little training however he will be very useful, and he seems to have a very good general knowledge of plants.

Accounts of the Commission represent a very bad state of things. Col Graham & the Surveyor in league against Mr Bartlett. – The surveyor has refused to sign the map, insisting that the line has been wrongly made – Funds all spent, and several of Bartletts drafts, protested. Maj Emory thinks the upshot of the matter will be either a general breaking up, and return home or his appointment as Commissioner.

Mr Bartletts brother, the Commissary is now here on his way out with a provision train. we expect to proceed them to El Paso, and hope to reach there in about 35 days from here, arrangements have been made to start next Monday 13th inst. —

I am informed that letters for El Paso will come most direct by the way of Santa Fee. If it should become advisable for me to return next summer I shall try & take that route

In reference to the plants & specimens left with Capt Hardcastle you can use your discretion about sending for them In case you may wish to use an order from me I will write one on the bottom of this page.— The Specimens consist of a bundle of plants. and some parcels of seeds Cones & Geological Specimens. Should you think best to take them under your care you can add them to those already in your possession & distribute such as you may think proper

I wish if you have a favorable opportunity you would get the opinion of some good Geologist in reference to what I have written for my California Report, and any criticisms in that department, or the Botany might be enclosed for future use in preparing it for the press.—

Mr Schott I believe writes you from here and I may as well close for the present

Remaining Very Respectfully Yours

Chas. C. Parry

arrangements have been made to Start next Monday 13th inst.—

I am informed that letters for El Paso will come most direct by the way of Santa Fee. If it should become advisable for me to return next summer I shall try & take that route

In reference to the plants & Specimens left with Capt Hardcastle you can use your discretion

Sandy Hill. Sept. 22d 1846

Dear Sir —

Wishing to submit to your inspection, a few specimens I am able to enclose in a letter, I thought that I might note down at the same time some few observations the past season has afforded that may perhaps prove not uninteresting to you — I have been located most of the time at Sandy Hill Wash. Co, where my frequent rambles before had left little new to reward my search and occupied me mainly in supplying deficiencies in my Herbarium; from this place as a central point, I have made excursions in various directions; in June I made an hasty trip to Montreal — the month of July I spent mainly on the east end of Long Island; — In the latter part of Augt I made an interesting excursion to Essex Co & Mount Marcy —

In our own vicinity a variety of soil unites plants that would otherwise indicate a different geographical range. on our warm sand hills we find Lechea, minor, Trichostema dichotoma and other plants to connect us with New Jersey, & Southern New York; while in our spongy ravines Northern plants make their appearance and I have found sparingly Rhamnus alnifolius, Chiogens, &c. in our woods Habenaria Hookeri, is quite abundant, we also find Goodyera pubescens, (Pogonia verticillata, (sparingly) in our wet meadows. Liparis correana on our river banks. Ranunculus pensylvanicus, Nasturtium hispidum, — Parnassia caroliniana — among our rarities I would mention, Hieracium Canadense, Gaura biennis (Fort Edward) Viburnum pubescens (banks of Champlain canal) — I was shown near Kingsbury a field covered with Rudbeckia hirta I also found an abundant locality of Pterospora andromeda, near Union Village Wash Co

In my visit to Montreal the only plants that especially attracted my attention were. Thlaspi arvense, Hyosciamus, niger — Silene inflata (Euphorbia corollata? Saint Johns

My observations on Long Island. in the month of July. were confined to the Eastern extremity & Montauk point, as I found myself here following in your steps I cannot expect to add anything important but simply present a list—
near Greenport— Dianthus armeria Vaccinium frondosum
South Hampton — Senecio vulgaris Stachys hyssopifolia
Montauk(— Lathyrus maritimus, Ilex opaca, Chrysopsis falcata, Hydrocotyle umbellata Oenothera. linearis. β. Rudbeckia hirta, and a small plant of which I enclose a specimen found near the point rooting in the moist sand, flowering close to the ground, with petals of a conspicuous shining lustre I supposed it might be a variety of Spergula rubra but it seems to present some singular features.—
On the mountains about Lake George. I saw Potentilla tridentata, P. arguta, Arenaria stricta, Silene antirrhina Woodsia. ilvensis, (Lycopodium rupestre is common on the bare granite rocks on the hillsides & islands—

During the last week in August. accompanied by my brother. we started for Essex Co & Mount Marcy, taking our rout by the way of Lake Champlain as far a Crown point; we struck across on foot for the Adirondack. iron works. by the way of Po[illegible]son's Clear pond. Our path lay along a now deserted road rendered impassable to horses by fallen trees. and with no buildings on our rout the greater part of the way we were told in the language of the country would prove "a lonesome road," our grass-grown path occasionally cheered us. with traces of "the white man's foot" in the plantain, on each side the ground matted Everywhere with moss. afforded a bed for Oxalis acetosella Linaea borealis. and Chiogenes, with its beautiful white berry (by the way) not unpalatable, & mildly acid, Polypodium connectile & Aster acuminatus, were very common. the lateness of the season was sufficiently indicated by finding the Linaea. borealis in full bloom; with an abundance of red raspberries to give relish to our rustic repasts, Passing on our way the tributaries to the East branch of the Hudson, and very generally on our rout we met with Gentiana, Saponaria var linearis which to our cursory view seemed amply distinct with no tendency to run into the plant we were acquainted with as the common G. Saponaria. — 8 miles from Johnson's Clear Pond, on the way to Newcomb we came on the Boreas river, the first tributary to the western branch. on the mudy margin of this stream I found the plan of which I send you Specimens, its characters seem to be well marked with a symetry of parts that would well accord with the Linnaean system I am unable to refer it to anything described in my books and therefore submit it to your more enlarged experience, hoping it may prove an interesting addition to New York Botany — should it prove anything new I propose to name it after my friend Dr Emmons. in whose geological district it occurs; if a described plant please furnish me with its name & characters. I have noted down a few prominent hi as they occured to me on the spot leaving it to your correction I can furnish a few more specimens — Arriving at the Adirondack iron works on the 28th Aug. the next day provided with a guide we started for Mount Marcy, 13 miles distant. the bed of the river now a mere brook ~~afford~~ offering a rough but sure path to the sources of the Hudson; Camping the 1st night at the foot of the mountain we made an early start arriving at the summit by 7 A.M. The Solidago thyrsoidea was common at the foot & the sides of the mountain we also found at various places Ribes lacustre in fruit; on the summit the ordinary alpine plant Solidago Virga Aurea Potentilla tridentata, Arenaria Greenlandica. Empetrum nigrum, Vaccinium uliginosum Nabalus nana Rhododendron Laponicum, Andromeda hypnoides. Lycopodiu selago Ledum latifolium, we were unsuccessful in our search for Epilobium alpinum, otherwise the scene & crop well rewarded our toil. — Hoping my communication may not interfere with more important duties I remain, with much respect

Dr J. Torrey —

Yours &c Charles C. Parry

PAID

5

Prof. John Torrey M.D.
Princeton.
New Jersey

Ps. I write on the eve of my departure for the west
can I serve you in any way in a botanical line I shall be glad
to do so. any communication. addressed to this place will reach me

C C Parry